

Shevardnadze meets WJC leaders

MOSCOW (R) — A World Jewish Congress (WJC) delegation met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday to discuss Soviet Jews and the Middle East conflict. WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg said. Steinberg told Reuters that the "positive and constructive" two-hour session also covered East-West relations. He said the delegation, which includes WJC President Edgar Bronfman and Secretary-General Israel Singer, would fly to Israel on Sunday to report on the meeting to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "I'm quite hopeful that this visit and our talks will be beneficial to the course of better relations between East and West and to the cause of Soviet Jewry," Steinberg said. He declined to give details of the meeting with Shevardnadze. The delegation, which arrived in Moscow Thursday, also discussed matters related to Nazi war criminals with senior Soviet legal officials and attended services at the Moscow Synagogue with members of the local Jewish community. Visits by the WJC to Moscow have coincided with a relaxation of Kremlin emigration policy. Last year, more than 6,000 Jews were granted exit visas compared to 943 in 1986.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily, published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية، تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Ibn Ali pardons Islamic dissident leader

TUNIS (Agencies) — President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali decided Saturday to pardon Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the outlawed Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) who was serving a life prison sentence. The official news agency Tunis Afrique Presse (TAP) reported. Ghannouchi, 47, a philosophy professor, was convicted last September after a mass trial of 90 persons by a state security court of "sedition against the state in collusion with Iran." The report said Ibn Ali issued the pardon in conjunction with the end of Ramadan, set for Monday or Tuesday. The pardon follows a series of measures by Ibn Ali aimed at distancing his government from what it considers excesses in a crackdown on Ghannouchi's party last year under former President Habib Bourguiba. Seven death sentences were passed at the trial in which Ghannouchi was convicted. Ibn Ali, who took power last November after Bourguiba, 84, was declared senile and deposed, had already reprieved a leading member of Ghannouchi's party condemned to the gallows in the September trial of 90 Muslim fundamentalists. He commuted the sentence on Ali Laaridj, who had been condemned while on the run but was captured, to hard labour for life in December.

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Locusts hit Nouakchott

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Swarms of locusts have reached the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott and have eaten 30 per cent of the vegetation in and around the city. Mauritanian officials said Saturday. They said at least three swarms had passed through the city since Wednesday. Scientists say North and West Africa are suffering the worst plague of the insects for 30 years. The swarms came from the north and landed in the southern part of the city before being blown north again by winds, the officials said.

Amal frees captives

BEIRUT (R) — The Shi'ite Amal militia Saturday freed seven rival militiamen kidnapped five years ago. Health Minister Joseph Al Hashem greeted the former hostages at the parliament building. Amal said it released them to mark the Holy Month of Ramadan. Hashem said the men, who belonged to the Lebanese Forces militia, were kidnapped five years ago.

Mercouri praises Turkish premier

ANKARA (R) — Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri praised Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Saturday as a peaceful man and said cultural exchanges would help a thaw in relations between Turkey and Greece. "Ozal... is one of those rare politicians who can say what he can and cannot do... a peaceful and sincere man," Mercouri told reporters.

Tamil rebels kill two Indian soldiers

COLOMBO (R) — Two Indian soldiers were killed and another was seriously wounded when their vehicle ran over explosives buried under the road by Tamil rebels, Sri Lankan military officials reported Saturday. The officials said the soldiers were killed Friday near the eastern port of Trincomalee, 236 kilometres northeast of Colombo, after the rebels detonated the explosives by remote control.

France launches smallest nuclear sub

CHERBOURG (R) — The French navy launched the world's smallest nuclear-powered military submarine Saturday. The Amethyste, 74 metres long and 7.6 metres wide, will be operational in 1991, naval officials said. They said the Amethyste, France's fifth nuclear submarine, would have a crew of about 70 and would be armed with SM-39 missiles, the underwater version of the French Exocet missile.

Iraqi killed by Kuwait guard

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti border guard shot and killed an Iraqi who tried to enter Kuwait illegally and clashed with border forces, the Interior Ministry reported Saturday. A ministry statement carried by the official Kuwait News Agency KUNA said the Iraqi, identified only as Hussein B, died of gunshot wounds after an exchange of fire with guards at the Abdali crossing between Kuwait and Iraq. Border guard Mubarak Mish'al Al Mutairi was wounded in the clash. The statement did not say when the incident took place.

Djerejian to be U.S. envoy to Syria

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan intends to nominate Edward Djerejian to be U.S. ambassador to Syria, the White House announced Friday. It said Djerejian, a 49-year-old career diplomat who was deputy White House press secretary for foreign affairs from 1985 to 1986, would replace William Egleton in the Damascus post if confirmed by the Senate. Djerejian, a specialist on the Middle East and U.S.-Soviet relations, currently serves as principal deputy secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. His last diplomatic assignment abroad was as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Amman.

Israelis lift siege, brace for violence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army reopened most of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday but stood by for violence on the 40th anniversary of the declaration of the Zionist state.

The army had closed the occupied territories Friday because of expected demonstrations after prayers for the approaching 'Eid Al Fitr.

The West Bank city of Nablus and surrounding refugee camps remained under curfew, the army said.

Troops shot and wounded a 16-year-old Palestinian boy during a demonstration at the Sha'ti refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said. Several others were reported wounded from beatings by soldiers in

camps around the strip.

A record 3,300 policemen remained on alert for protests in Arab Jerusalem, but did not intervene during busy early morning shopping.

An army spokesman would not say if more soldiers than usual were deployed in the occupied territories, but said: "The army is taking all the necessary precautions to make sure things go smoothly and peacefully."

The underground leadership of the five-month Palestinian uprising (Continued on page 5)

Syrians poised to enter Hizbollah base

KHALDE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Hundreds of Syrian soldiers backed by tanks and armoured vehicles took up combat positions facing Beirut's southern suburbs Saturday, witnesses said.

Pro-Syrian officials said earlier that Damascus had ordered its troops to move into the suburbs to halt bloody battles between the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) and pro-Syrian Amal militias.

Witnesses told Reuters the Syrians dug in behind big sand barricades opposite Hizbollah positions along a seven-kilometre stretch of the road to Beirut airport.

Sources quoted by the AP said by nightfall more than 4,000 troops and 250 tanks and armoured personnel carriers had deployed around the edges of the

40-square-kilometre slums. The vanguard of the incoming forces rumbled across south Beirut's Ouzai coastal highway in 48 T-55 Soviet-made tanks with gunners atop their swiveling turrets at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT).

They were led by Brigadier-General Ghazi Kennaan, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, and Major-General Saeed Betrakdar, commander in chief of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Both headed the battalion in a chauffeured, bullet-proof, dark blue Mercedes-Benz. Truckloads of infantrymen and ammunition as well as jeeps mounted with 106-mm recoilless guns streamed in afterwards.

It was the first mass movement of Syrian forces in west Beirut (Continued on page 5)

French parliament dissolved for June poll

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand dissolved the National Assembly Saturday, clearing the way for parliamentary elections that he said would be held June 5 and 12.

Mitterrand made the announcement in a nationwide television address.

Six days ago Mitterrand was elected for a second seven-year term as president and appointed Socialist Michel Rocard Prime Minister.

Attempts by Mitterrand to persuade centrists to join Rocard's minority government have proved unsuccessful.

Mitterrand said Saturday: "I have to state that the opening (towards the political centre) has not been as broad as I had hoped."

An opinion poll to be published Sunday says the Socialist Party would win the two-stage general elections.

The poll, by the Ipsos polling institute to be published in the weekly Journal du Dimanche, shows the Socialist Party would win 41 per cent of the national vote, while the centre-right coalition that resigned after Mitterrand beat conservative Jacques Chirac in the presidential poll would win 39 per cent.

Mitterrand said: "The prime minister let me know that because of the lack of necessary cooperation and despite his efforts, he did not consider it was possible to form a stable and solid parliamentary majority every government needs to act correctly."

"I have thus a few moments ago, conforming to article 12 of the constitution and after carrying out consultations, signed a decree announcing the dissolution of parliament."

Meanwhile, former Premier

Pierre Mauroy was elected secretary general of the Socialist Party Saturday defeating another former prime minister, Laurent Fabius.

Fabius, 41, had the support of Mitterrand, who left the choice to the executive committee because he did not want to get involved in internal party affairs, party officials said.

But several prominent Socialist leaders opposed Fabius because they suspected he wanted to use the job as a springboard to becoming a presidential candidate in 1995.

Mauroy, 59, who is also the mayor of Lille, won by a 63-54 vote of the executive committee after midnight and was later endorsed by acclamation.

U.N. faces tough task in Afghanistan as Soviets begin withdrawal

ISLAMABAD (R) — A United Nations team flew to Kabul Saturday to guarantee an international pact that all have agreed to honour save the Afghan Mujahedeen, who have sworn to wipe out one of its key signatories.

General Rauli Helminen, head of the 50-man U.N. team, left with part of his group to ensure that around 115,000 Soviet troops start to leave Afghanistan from May 15, while over five million refugees trudge back home.

Before he left, the Finnish general issued a statement that Afghanistan and Pakistan had offered the formal assurances he had demanded, saying they would honour the terms of the Geneva agreement. The pact was also signed by Washington and Moscow.

But in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar, Mujahedeen leaders held firm to their pledge to continue the eight-year war until President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government was destroyed.

"While the Russian troops are withdrawing, it is important to remember that they are not doves of peace celebrating the positive results of the Geneva accord," Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the Jamiat-i-Islami group, said from Peshawar.

"Our job is not finished yet. Our struggle will continue... until the root of the aggression that is the puppet regime is eliminated and an Islamic government is established," Rabbani, leader of the main guerrilla forces, said.

Helminen said that Kabul and Islamabad had also made all necessary arrangements to ensure the refugees could return in safety and honour, and had guaranteed that U.N. refugee officials

would be able to do their work effectively.

However, Western diplomats in Islamabad believe Helminen's officers and officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will have a tough time controlling anything in a country effectively still at war.

The guerrillas have rejected the U.N.-sponsored pact. Guerrilla sources in Peshawar said earlier this week that they welcomed UNHCR help in areas they control but see cooperation with Kabul as an unwelcome recognition of Najibullah.

Complicating matters further are two separate agreements underwriting the main Geneva pact.

Under the first, Washington agreed not supply more arms to the Mujahedeen, if Moscow supplied no more to Kabul.

King, Iraqi leader discuss situation on warfront, summit preparations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein paid a short working visit to Amman Saturday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the Iraqi position on the warfront after the liberation last month of the Fao Peninsula from Iranian occupation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders also discussed in detail the latest developments in the Arab areas and coordination of Arab action, including preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers next month.

The King and the President also discussed the "unique brotherly" (Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein receives Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday upon the Iraqi leader's arrival for a short working visit (Petra photo)

King meets Walters, reaffirms position

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held talks with U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters on Middle East peace efforts and reiterated Jordan's principled stand towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as contained in the six-point memorandum Jordan gave to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in April, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Walters was earlier received by



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with American Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters (Petra photo)

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Foreign

Minister Taber Al Masri, Petra said. It did not elaborate. Walters arrived here late Friday and is scheduled to leave Sunday.

Iraq sets conditions for talks with Iran

ABU DHABI (R) — Iraq has said it will not enter United Nations-sponsored talks with Iran on ending the Gulf war before Tehran accepts a U.N. ceasefire order, a Gulf newspaper said Saturday.

Al Itihad published what it said was the text of an Iraqi letter delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday.

The letter was Baghdad's response to U.N. proposals formulated after talks last month with envoys from both sides in the seven-and-a-half-year-old conflict.

The proposals called for setting up teams to negotiate a way to implement last July's Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire.

Baghdad accepted the resolution on condition that Iran did likewise but Tehran said Iraq must first be branded the aggressor.

Al Itihad quoted Iraq as saying in the letter: "Efforts must first focus on persuading Iran to accept the resolution unequivocally and unconditionally and the (U.N.) secretary general can take the measures he deems appropriate."

Kaddoumi: PLO coordinates stands with Jordan, Syria

KUWAIT (Petra) — A leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official has described Jordan's relations with PLO as normal and said contacts were going on among the PLO, Jordan, Syria and other Arab countries for assessing the Arab situation in all its aspects.

Farouk Kaddoumi, director of the PLO's Political Department, said the Arabs should maintain coordination ahead of the planned Arab summit meeting in Algiers where decisions pertain-

ing to the future of the Arab Nation vis-a-vis Zionism and Israel would be taken.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Siyassah published Friday, Kaddoumi said Arab countries were coordinating positions with regard to the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's latest Middle East peace plan, but intense coordination was being formed between the PLO and the confrontation states — Syria and Jordan — on this particular subject.

Cyprus tightens security after carbomb explosion

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cyprus is clamping down after a carbomb destined for the Israeli embassy blew up in central Nicosia and killed three people, Interior Minister Christodoulos Veniamin said Saturday.

He told Reuters that 13 Lebanese were sent back to Beirut after they arrived at Larnaca airport Friday. They were not suspects but lacked sufficient reasons to enter Cyprus, he said.

He did not disclose what extra security measures the government had taken after the carbomb exploded 200 metres from the Israeli embassy Wednesday, killing the Lebanese driver and two Cypriots and injuring 18

people. But he said the security forces would be strengthened both in numbers and technically.

Another 10 Arabs who arrived on a Lebanese airliner were sent back to Beirut, Saturday, the AP reported.

Immigration officials at Larnaca airport, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the AP those turned back Saturday were among 155 passengers arriving from Beirut on Middle East Airlines Flight 261.

The 10 Arabs, who included some Lebanese nationals, were denied entry stamps and returned to Beirut aboard the same jetliner when it flew back later in the day.

Kuwaiti writer welcomes Jordan's call for Arab force

KUWAIT (Petra) — Noted Kuwaiti writer Ahmad Saqqaf has welcomed and voiced support for His Majesty King Hussein's proposal to set up Arab rapid deployment force to defend the Arab World in the face of external danger.

"It is a good proposal and is worth further study by the coming Arab summit meeting in Algiers," Saqqaf said in a front-page article appearing in Al Anbaa daily here Thursday.

He said Arab countries' participation in such a unified force "represents an embodiment of Arab solidarity which Arab states have long been seeking and a new constructive step in the Arab march and struggle against those harbouring evil designs and ambitions in the Arab Land."

"To those who were secretly hoping that Iraq would be over-

run and all the Arab countries in the Gulf would subsequently fall, and to those who had fuelled the conflict for the past years, the creation of the rapid deployment force would come as a real shock," Saqqaf wrote.

He said the Israelis, who have been demolishing Arab homes in the West Bank and Gaza, breaking the limbs of children with their guns and committing atrocities against children and women, would "realise that no such practices would be possible after the creation of this force, because it would mean a new all-out war."

But Saqqaf expressed the view that such a corps would not be sufficient for deterring the Zionists from continuing their arbitrary actions in Palestine and not enough for regaining the rights of the Arab people in Palestine (Continued on page 5)

S. African trade unions defy government order

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's biggest black labour federation defied the white-led government Saturday and opened an emergency congress to plan a struggle against new curbs on trade union rights. Officials of 14 unions belonging to the mainly black Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) began the two-day meeting by raising clenched fists and singing songs in praise of the banned African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement.

"The perspective ahead of us is one of an intense repression against our people and their organisations," COSATU President Elijah Barayi told the 1,400 delegates.

This August Congress is charged with the responsibility of setting strategic perspectives for the period lying ahead.

When the government effectively closed down 17 major black opposition organisations in February, it also banned COSATU from campaigning for or discussing political issues including foreign sanctions against South Africa's race policies.

But resolutions before the con-

ference included discussion of sanctions and other forbidden topics.

"COSATU must not hesitate to take political action to defend and advance the interests of its members and the working class in general," one resolution said.

A major concern is the government's labour relations amendment bill which would ban solidarity strikes and consumer boycotts against companies involved in labour disputes — both key COSATU tactics.

Mahdi forms new government

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Saturday he had formed a 27-man national unity government in which militant Muslims and southern politicians had 10 seats.

The new government, if approved by the largely ceremonial Supreme Council, replaces a shaky coalition in which Mahdi's Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) were the main partners.

The coalition broke up last August when the DUP pulled out in protest at what it said were Umma's upper-handed policies.

Mahdi, reelected prime minister by parliament April 27, told a news conference that his Umma Party would have 10 ministerial posts in the new cabinet and the DUP six.

The National Islamic Front (NIF) party, which wants Islamic laws implemented in religiously and ethnically-diverse Sudan, would have five ministers.

The NIF said earlier that Umma had promised to revive Sharia laws before the end of June.

Mahdi said south Sudanese parties who voted for his reelection would have five ministers and the small National Sudan Party, centred in the Nuba mountains of southeast Sudan, would have one.

Rockets kill 4

Three rockets slammed into a village on the edge of the Afghan capital Kabul Saturday, killing

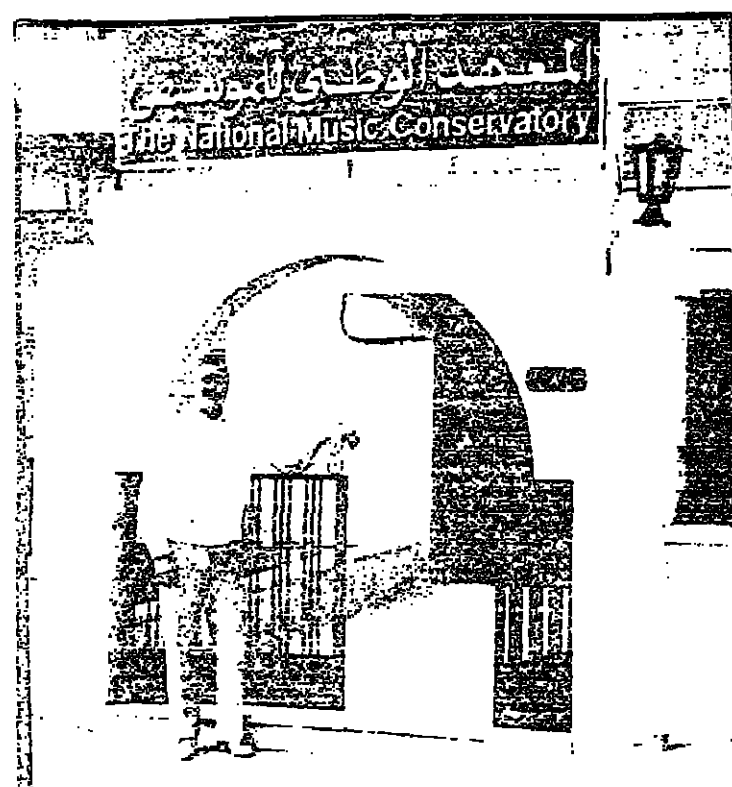
four people and wounding four, witnesses said.

Earlier a truck bomb exploded near reviewing stands being prepared for ceremonies to mark the start of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan Sunday. Eleven people were killed and 13 injured in the blast (see page 8).

The attacks have been blamed on the Mujahedeen.

Witnesses in the village of Baraki Chahrara on the outskirts of Kabul said they saw one rocket hit a house, causing the walls to collapse and trapping two children inside.

An elderly man and another child were killed by flying debris, they said.



Peter Butler stands in front of the conservatory.



Instructor and students during a training session.



The whole ensemble during a break.

Jordan's first orchestra on the march

Text and photos
by Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

SINCE the beginning of the eighties, a decade which soon will be over, musical events and activities in Jordan have constantly been on the rise and on all fronts. Numerous foreign artists came to perform in Amman covering styles as various as jazz, classical, pop, blue grass, Arabic, variety, rock, choirs or others. We have also seen the creation of local groups, mainly in the pop and jazz fields, but apart from a couple of choirs whose repertoire included some classical works, there was still no genuine classical ensemble in the country.

In April this year Peter Butler succeeded in gathering about 30 musicians to form the first true orchestra in Jordan. Major P. Butler is music chief instructor with the Armed Forces. He works with Jamal Zureikat, the head of music at the Armed Forces. Butler's background entitles him to claim the right to drive such an ambitious project. Living in the music world since his childhood he plays the cornet, the saxophone, the clarinet among other instruments. He joined the British army at 22, attending the Royal Military School — London and was the bandmaster of the King's Own Scottish Borderers for 9 years. He also performed with various ensembles in Britain varying from dance bands to choirs and symphony orchestras.

The idea to start such an orchestra emerged from the contacts Peter Butler had made under the umbrella of the Amman Music Society (AMS), a recently established group of musicians, who meet every month to share their love of music through discussions, lectures, simple performances, singing, and exchange of ideas. The AMS itself was also launched by P. Butler and is open to all. A small group of performers was then set up and first played at the Amman Baccalaureate School at the end of 1987. In 1988, the

project went further with more musicians joining and the support of the National Music Conservatory (NMS) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation — who offered their premises for rehearsals.

At present the orchestra includes 22 Jordanians, 6 Americans and 5 British. It is worth noting that most of the non-Jordanians are permanent residents of the country. Instruments played are piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, violin, viola, cello and string bass. The ensemble is still like a new born baby and no official name has been chosen for it except that its members like to call it "our orchestra," temporarily of course.

The musicians of the ensemble come from different backgrounds and the difference in professional experience they might have is easily compensated by their motivation and their being eager to make the project work. Several music teachers are amongst them, some working at the conservatory. A well known choir conductor plays the clarinet.

A first public performance is scheduled for June and more strings, winds and percussion musicians are welcome to join the orchestra which has an independent civilian status. All members are participating on voluntary bases and do not receive any fees.

Major Butler explained after a rehearsal of Schubert's Military March, that as its present form,

the ensemble cannot be described as a symphony orchestra. He said he will first try to put up a programme of "light music" eventually including operetta and show music in addition to traditional chamber music. It is also his intention to arrange oriental music for he believes the group should be open and integrate and assimilate various sources of inspiration. Its situation in the Middle East at the crossroad of two cultures gives it the privilege of being able to envision the blending of Western and Oriental forms, though so far no musicians have been clearly successful in such an attempt.

"Our orchestra" is expected to carry further the project and

serve as a launching pad, a seed bed for a future symphony orchestra or even for more ensembles. Attending a rehearsal of the orchestra gives an impression of joy and spontaneity which however does not prejudice the spirit of good and serious work. With performers as young as 16 and others in their early sixties, Peter Butler tries to keep a friendly and relaxed atmosphere without sacrificing the disciplines which are essential for producing satisfactory results.

It will be most interesting to monitor the progress of the orchestra during the coming months. It seems to already have all the elements to succeed and gives one all the reasons to be optimistic.



Butler during a practical session.



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14:30 Children's series
14:35 Religious programme
14:40 Ramadan puzzle
14:45 Arabic play
14:50 Cooking programme
14:55 Religious series
15:00 Health and Fitness
15:05 Arabic comedy
15:10 Ramadan contest
15:15 Religious programmes
15:20 Varieties and programme review
15:25 News in Arabic
15:30 Arabic series
15:35 Puzzles from all over the world
15:40 Historical series
15:45 News summary in Arabic
15:50 Arabic series
15:55 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

19:30 Rue Carnot
19:35 L'Ecole des Fais
19:40 News in French
19:45 Les Sciences à la une (documentary)
19:50 News in Hebrew
19:55 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:05 Check it Out
20:10 World in Flames
20:15 News in English
20:20 Private Eye
20:25 Richman, Portman

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08:15 News Summary
08:20 Pop Talk
08:25 News Summary
08:30 Pop Session cont.
08:35 News Bulletin
08:40 Instrumentals
08:45 Science Report
08:50 Concert Hour
08:55 News Summary
09:00 Instrumentals
09:05 Old Favourites
09:10 Listeners' Choice
09:15 News Summary
09:20 Rhythm and Blues
09:25 Newsday

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show continued
21:10 News Summary
21:15 Evening Show continued
21:20 News Summary
21:25 News Headline
21:30 Close Down

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ School exhibition, at Sukaina Bint Al Hussein School, Jabal Hussein.

★ Festival of Islamic Heritage and Books at the Roman Theatre, Amman.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610247
American Centre 643371
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
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Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 637777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
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MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munt-

zah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630125.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philatelic Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philatelic Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Orthodox Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.
chaplain's residence Tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arab Service, Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 622405, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 821-264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

18:15 Aqaba (RJ)
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)
18:40 Jeddah (RJ)
18:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:00 Beirut (ME)
19:05 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
19:10 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 London (RJ)
18:10 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Paris (RJ)
19:05 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:15 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:10 Berlin, Larnaca (IF)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:40 Damascus (AZ)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
13:30 Sharja, Doha (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (IA)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Jeddah (SV)
17:35 Athens (OA)
18:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:15 Beirut (ME)
22:05 Cairo (MS)
01:00 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:35 Kuwait (RJ)
20:40 Dhahran (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:55 Baghdad (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:05 Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ)
21:15 Cairo (RJ)

22:15 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
10:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:40 Larnaca, Berlin (IF)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Rome (AZ)
14:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
15:00 Tripoli (LN)
15:30 Damascus (add.)
15:50 Kuwait (KU)
17:40 Jeddah (SV)
18:20 Athens (OA)
20:15 Sana'a (LH)
22:50 Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

04:01 Fajr
05:31 Sunrise/Duha
12:32 Dhuhur
13:07 Asr
19:32 Maghrib
21:03 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather will continue to be hot and dry with light to moderate northerly winds. In Aqaba, the winds will be southerly moderate and calm seas.

Min./max. temp. 8 / 20

Aqaba 23 / 38

Jerash 20 / 37

Jordan Valley 23 / 43

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35.3, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 12 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates
Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc (for 10) 96.4 / 99.8
Dutch guilder 179.8 / 186.2
French franc 59.5 / 61.6
Italian lira (for 100) 27.1 / 28.1
Japanese yen (for 100) 271.3 / 282.4
Swedish crown 241.9 / 251.3
Swiss franc 641.5 / 665.6
U.S. sterling pound 339.6 / 351.4
U.S. dollar 201.2 / 208.9

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891238
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Unit 771293, 273131
Civil Defence Quweishieh 707733
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 195, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630343
Blood Bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 623046-3
Police headquarters 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896390/1
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771253/8
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)533006/4

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmoud Allan 894866
Dr. Naji Tayem 884544
Dr. Majed Abu Sneh 881635
Dr. A. Sha'er 791405
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

TAXIS

Ahram taxi 663911
Zaid taxi 664476
Khayyam taxi 641541
Cairo taxi 819157
Jordan taxi 623050
Kardi taxi 841309

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642643
Mathes, J. Amman 630140
Palestine Shmeisani 664174
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845/65
Al-Musasher Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661277/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Ithnan, Al-Muhajreen 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662400/50
Amal Hospital 674155

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/9
Radio Jordan 774111/9
Ministry of Tourism 664112
Hotel complaints 661176
Price complaints 661176
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg
Apple (French) 400 / 390
Apple (green) 450 / 400
Apple (Lebanese) 300 / 250
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 240
Beans 200 / 150
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrot 150 / 120
Cauliflower 180 / 140
Cherry (green) 1000 / 800
Cucumbers 160 / 120
Dates (2 kgs) 670 / 500
Eggplant (large) 90 / 60
Eggplant (small) 130 / 100
Garlic (green) 160 / 120
Lemon 280 / 240
Mallow 180 / 140
Marrow 150 / 100
Onion (green) 160 / 100
Onion (dry) 90 / 60
Oranges (local) 260 / 200
Peaches 700 / 600
Peas 150 / 100
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 160 / 120
Potato 140 / 100
Raddish /
Strawberry 1000 / 700
Tomatoes 30 / 60
Vine leaves 340 / 280
Watermelon 80 / 50
Sweetmelon 150 / 100

Cabinet approves NMI takeover of hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to include a number of public hospitals in the National Medical Institution (NMI) which will take charge of operating them from now on.

These hospitals are: Al Hussein Medical Centre, Al Bashir and Princess Basma hospitals and the hospitals of Ramtha, Ma'raq, Karak, Ajloun, Jerash, Zarqa, Salt, Madaba, Tafilah, Ma'an, South Shmeh, Ghor Safi, Karamah, Rweished, as well as the Jordan University Hospital, King Abdullah Hospital and the military hospitals operated by the Royal Medical Services.

The NMI will start operations by the first of July 1988 according to Dr. Daoud Hanania, the institution's director general.

Earlier this month Hanania said that a committee formed from the Ministry of Finance and which includes representatives of the other public sectors was involved in preparing a comprehensive financial set of regulations, and a budget for the institution which was first created in August 1987.

Hanania said the NMI will retain its financial and administrative independence and it will maintain close coordination with the Health Ministry medical schools and the private sector as well.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality has embarked on preparations to celebrate the Kingdom's Independence Day on May 25.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that streets and main squares will be bedecked with flags and other decorative signs, and the municipality will open several parks one of which is a 10-dunum piece of land at Nasr in the eastern districts of Amman.

Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh will open the municipality's building and public library at Basman district while the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief will sponsor a soccer match at the Sports City between

Amman to celebrate Independence Day

Greater Amman team and the Armed Forces team.

But the main celebration will be held under royal patronage for the opening of the Sports City Interchange.

Work on the project began in 1985 and it was financed through a loan from the World Bank and the Greater Amman Municipality resources.

The interchange comprising an overpass, underpass and a roundabout, allows a traffic flow of eight cars in both directions.

For the past month, construction teams had been working around the clock to complete the Sports City Interchange by May 25.

Crown Prince elected to Moroccan academy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been elected as member of the Royal Moroccan Academy which groups 60 members of notable personalities, scholars, scientists and intellectuals, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper also said that Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad was also elected as member of the Moroccan Academy during its annual meeting held last month.

The academy established in 1980 is chaired by King Hassan II and elects members who are noted for their knowledge, and remarkable scientific or literary work.

The academy is designed to encourage research in philosophy, literature, art, sciences, medicine, diplomacy, martial art, economy, industry and other major fields.

TCC instal exchanges in 294 towns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) succeeded by the end of last year to instal digital electronic telephone exchanges in 294 Jordanian towns and villages, but it hopes to double this number by the end of the present 1986-1990 five year development plan, TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail said Saturday.

Apart from maintaining an excellent telephone service linking Jordan with most parts of the world, the TCC has also successfully introduced facsimile and telex services, and would shortly introduce a paging system and "packer switching data network."

Ismail said in an interview with the Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper.

Through the ground satellite stations in Baqaa, the TCC is able to connect subscribers and callers through orbiting satellites with almost every corner of the globe; and through microwave telephone systems Jordan has been linked with Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. And shortly this network will include Saudi Arabia, Ismail noted.

Asked about the volume of telephone services in Jordan in comparison with advanced nations, Ismail said the volume or what is called "penetration rate" in comparison with these nations stood at 10 per cent for Jordan as a whole and 15 per cent for Amman alone.

The TCC would need at least JD 100 million to instal equipment and promote services vertically and horizontally to raise this rate to 15 per cent for Jordan and 20 per cent for Amman, Ismail

said.

He said most areas of Amman have been supplied with telephones but in the suburbs of the capital there are towns like Naour, Sahab and Jweideh whose telephone exchanges have not yet been fully installed.

"Telephone projects in all areas are being implemented through loans to the TCC from Japan and France but the volume of spending and priorities in these projects are subject to government decisions," Ismail pointed out.

"No developing country in the world can meet all the telephone needs of its population because these projects are costly," Ismail added.

Asked to comment on the transformation of the TCC into a

public shareholding company, as approved by the government, Ismail said that TCC officials are working on this project, "although this is not an easy job."

"The process involves transforming a government institution into a company which will be operated on the basis of making profits. For this to happen, a great deal of change has to be introduced in the TCC's administrative, organisational and financial systems," Ismail noted.

The process of transformation will be gradual. First it entails the creation of shares which will initially be owned by the government and later will be offered to the public, Ismail pointed out.

Asked on the prospect of TCC reducing the rate imposed on international calls by day or by night, Ismail said, 17 months ago the corporation reduced by 23 per cent the rate on calls whether made by day or night and later reduced the rate on international calls by 30 per cent at night.

It was hoped that such reductions would encourage people to increase their calls and so offer the TCC more income.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

QUARRIES TO BE CLOSED: Quarries lying not far from the main Amman-Jerash Road near Safout, Ain Al Pasha and Baqa Refugee Camp will be closed. A report in Al Dustour newspaper said that the owners of the quarries have been given sufficient time to find quarries in safer places away from the residential areas.

LOW INCOME HOUSING: The Housing Bank will organise a four-day seminar on low income housing Saturday with the aim of encouraging the private sector to invest in low income housing projects. The seminar will also consider solutions and alternatives for problems impeding investment in this sector. The public and private sectors as well as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will take part in this seminar.

LIVESTOCK: Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabbaa reaffirmed that the ministry was very much concerned with livestock breeding and fattening projects to meet citizens' need for red meat. The minister added that many parties were interested in this field and that the ministry encourages such projects by offering incentives to farmers.

2 BOOKS: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri has called on Jordanian writers and poets to provide the ministry with samples of their new literary production in short stories and poetry. The ministry intends to publish two books during this year one consisting of short stories and the other poetry.

MAN JAILED: The military court has sentenced Hamdan Mohammad Hamdan to six years imprisonment and fined him JD 600 for trafficking hashish. The sentence has been endorsed by the military governor.

ANTIQUITIES: The Department of Antiquities will take part in a seminar on world cooperation and cultural exchange among the Non-Aligned countries scheduled to be held in Yugoslavia on October 25. The four-day seminar will discuss issues related to international cooperation in the field of antiquities, excavation and preservation.

BULGARIAN GOODS: The Civil Service Consumers Corporation (CSCC) Director General Nabil Abul Huda will pay a visit to Bulgaria during this month to conclude contracts for the purchase of Bulgarian clothes and foodstuffs for the corporation.

ELECTRIFICATION: Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Saturday started work for the electrification of Zaitounah village in Ma'an governorate. JEA had earlier electrified five other villages in the governorate within the framework of the new rural electrification project in the south.

Societies asked to stop collecting funds for Zakat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has requested Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat to stop the collection of money for the Zakat Fund by charitable organisations and other societies.

He said that raising contributions from the public for the Zakat (alms for the poor) Fund was the sole task of the Ministry of Awqaf and its affiliated organisations.

The Zakat Fund is an institution which raises money for the needy families.

According to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily, the Ministry of Awqaf had earlier received requests from local organisations and charitable societies through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for raising contributions for the Zakat Fund.

Irbid discusses reorganisation

IRBID (Petra) — A meeting was held in Irbid Saturday to discuss the general reorganisation of the central parts of Irbid.

Several ideas were put forward and discussed mainly focussing on means of developing districts to allow further expansion and expected growth in the volume of traffic.

The meeting discussed the construction of a hotel for tourists, a public theatre, an amusement park in the city area, also a housing estate for students at Jordan University of Science and Technology and university employees in addition to a model village at Shatana.

The meeting also discussed

organising Ramtha and building an information centre in the border city.

Also discussed was the reconstruction of the archeological town of Um Qais and the development of the towns of Ajloun, Jerash and Souf, and the Himme Spa Centre in the northern Jordan Valley.

A rough estimate of the cost of these development projects was worked out at the meeting which was chaired by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment secretary general, and attended by mayors in the Irbid governorate, the secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority and provincial governors.

Writers federation to choose new board

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) will hold its general elections on June 2 to choose eight members for the board of directors and a chairman of the board.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Hosni Fariz a notable Jordanian writer is most likely to be elected as the federation chairman since no other member has thus far announced his nomination for the post.

A total of 22 JWF members, including two women, are running for board members in the coming election.

Last June the government decided to dissolve the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) and in July it was decided that a federation should be established in its place.

Bonn to finance RSS projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two member team from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) said in a statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily that West Germany will finance the cost of equipment at a model remote village in Jordan and will provide sufficient financial assistance to the RSS to help it carry out other energy projects.

The RSS team comprising Abdullah Jaradat and Dr. Rizek Taani, who just returned from West Germany said that the West German government will allocate half a million marks for the remote village project and five million marks for financing other RSS energy-related schemes.

The two RSS officials had discussed with West German specialists and directors of research centres, assistance to the RSS in the fields of renewable energy.

Work on the installation of the additional equipment at the village is expected to start early next month.

The RSS team discussed the installation of two additional wind converters at the remote village which would help produce 300 kilowatt power for the village's 300 inhabitants.

The village is Jurf Al Darawish, which is a remote area in a desert region midway between Amman and Aqaba, and has been chosen by the RSS for its experiments.

Taani said that the RSS has already installed other equipment, set up a model farm planted trees, laid down pipes and provided all the other requirements for the project.

The RSS last February announced the electrification of the project and the model village through solar power and wind energy.

Nick O'Tine and Nicotena win Jordan Times anti-smoking contest



By a Jordan Times staff reporter

NICK O'TINE and Nicotena were the two winning names which children Ruba Walid Kalaji, 10 years old, and Belal M. Zuhair, 12 years old, felt would appropriately describe the dragon who smokes in a Jordan Times sponsored anti-smoking competition which ended last week.

The competition called upon competitors to name and colour the dragon who does not smoke and the one who smokes for the younger age group — those up to 10 years of age — and write in not more than 15 words why they thought smoking was harmful, for the older age group — aged 11 to 15 years.

Ruba won the first prize in the category followed in second place by Hanin Sa'd Abu Dayeh, 8-year-old, who called the dragon Chimney, and the third prize was won by 4-year-old Yazan Kopty, who called the dragon, Puff the Magic Dragon.

Two more competitors were given honourable mention by the judges who placed Alexander Issa, a 5-year-old child who described the dragon who smokes as Bloody Foolish at fourth place, and Heather Green an 8-year-old who called the dragon a Dandy Dragon in fifth place.

Belal the winner of the first prize in the older category, wrote a short paragraph in which he used the letters of Nicotina to explain why he thinks smoking is harmful. Belal said "Spending Money On Knocking-out Innocent vital-organs Nice-of-us-to say A good-bye cigarettes."

Zilcho Zephyr, 14 years old, won second prize by naming the dragon Cigarettes and describing the harmful effects of smoking. Zilcho said: "Smoking can cause lung cancer. Nicotine inside

cigarettes can be addictive and smoke can affect non-smokers."

Rand Hazou, the 12 years old, won third prize. He tells smokers "if you think you are cool when you smoke, you are a fool. You are just killing yourself," he named the dragon Smoky.

Honourable mention were given to Neeru, who said that "smoking snatches away life and money

from a smoker leaving him in his own ashes with cancer and distress." The name of his smoking dragon is Apostle of Life.

Fifth prize was won by Malek Saket, an eleven-year-old, who stated that smoking is harmful, continues to explain that "it causes lung cancer, respiratory and digestive problems and adversely affects unborn babies.

The name of his dragon is Kick-the-Cig Dragon.

The total number of children who participated in the competition were 52 and the competition was sponsored by the Jordan Times English daily, the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society and Smith Kline and French Laboratories Limited.

GUS's good idea (a children's story)

MOHAMMAD RACED around the corner at full speed. He looked forward to a soft hug from his mother and a warm dinner before bed. Usually, he enjoyed school, but not today. His teacher had told the class all about smoking and the ways it can make you very ill. His mother smoked, and he didn't want to think about her becoming ill. He wanted to tell her to stop, but how? He loved her too much to hurt her feelings.

Suddenly, there was a great crash and Mohammad found himself sprawled on the rough ground like a tossed toy. He hurt all over, and tears stung his eyes. "Oh, I am sorry," he heard someone say in rather high pitched voice. "I am sorry to have knocked you down. Here, let me help you. Are you all right?"

To Mohammad's amazement, he was being gathered to his feet and brushed off by a chubby, pink dragon who was not much taller than himself. Mohammad had never seen a pink dragon before. In fact, he had never seen a dragon before. He was most interested that this particular dragon spoke.

"Aren't you the wrong colour?" Mohammad asked. "I don't mean to sound rude, but I've always heard dragons are green."

"Only when we smoke," The little dragon's tummy bobbed up and down as he moved about. "Now take me, for example. I turn bright green and feel quite ill when I smoke. Coughing, bad breath, headaches. No wonder green dragons have such a bad reputation. They have such bad tempers because they feel sick most of the time."

"By the way, my name is GUS," he held out a chubby pink paw. "That's G...U...S, short for my real-name. Give Up Smoking. My parents named me that — Give Up Smoking. They thought it was a good reminder to keep me a healthy pink. Don't

you turn green when you smoke?" GUS seemed genuinely interested.

"No," said Mohammad "I am a human, and we don't turn green. Besides, I don't smoke."

"Well," said GUS as he brushed the last of the dirt off Mohammad's jacket. "I've seen human children turn green. Particularly when they smoke their first cigarette. The poor children get very sick, just as I do." GUS stepped back and looked over. "There," he said. "Good as new. Can I walk you home and make certain you are all right? It is the least I can do after knocking you down."

Mohammad took the chubby pink dragon's hand — or paw as the case was — and slowly led his new friend toward home. Mohammad thought about things for awhile, then said, "GUS, would you like to come to my house for dinner? My mother is a very good cook, and we are having roast lamb tonight. I know you would like it. And... and..."

his voice became very faint. "Well, 'and' what?" said GUS. "Your problem is mine, my friend. Tell me. 'And' what?"

that-it-is-bad-to-smoke-and-it-will-turn-you-green-and-she-shouldn't-do-it." The words poured out in a single breath, and at the end of them Mohammad began to sob. "Oh, GUS, I love my mother so much, and I'm afraid her cigarettes will make her ill. But I don't know

how to ask her to stop." GUS put his arms around the troubled boy. "Please come home with me, GUS." They moved slowly down the road.

"No, I can't do that," said the jolly pink dragon. "You see, adults don't believe in dragons — be they pink or green. But, I do have an idea. Adults do believe in love, and they like stories. Tonight, while you are having dinner, tell your mother all about our meeting, and how I said smoking was bad for her. She will think it is a wonderful story you have made up just for her. Then, tell her you will never smoke because you don't wish to become ill. Finally, go to her, give her a hug, and tell her how much you love her. She will get the idea."

"Thank you, GUS," Mohammad said. "That is a good idea." They were in front of his house now, and he rushed up the steps to open the door. When he turned around, the little pink dragon was gone. Mohammad could smell roasting lamb and stewed vegetables, and he decided he was very hungry. "Mother," he shouted. "Mother, can I tell you a story about a pink dragon... after we have had dinner?"

And a word to parents: If you what to give up smoking for the sake of your own health and that of your family, go and see your doctor — he can help you.

Higher council of medical specialisations to meet in Syria

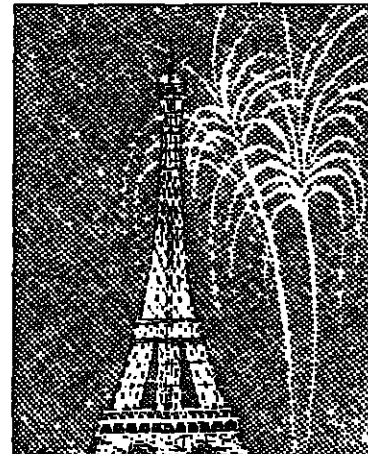
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Arab Medical Specialisations has been called for a meeting in Damascus on June 11 to discuss the subject of reorganising the council's administrative set-up and its financial regula-

tions.

The call came from Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh in his capacity as board chairman who had been elected to the post at the council's last meeting in Bahrain.

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Jordan Times

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A friend in the Elysée

THE reelection of Socialist Francois Mitterrand for a second term as French president has been welcomed in most world capitals, and particularly in the Arab World, as it ensures the continuation of principled French support for Arab causes, especially in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, the "triple coup" that Jacques Chirac pulled off, including the release of the last three French hostages in Lebanon, in the last few days of the run-up to the election, had disturbed the Arabs, since the writing was on the wall that a dramatic reversal of the French stand in support of Iraq in the war with Iran could be in the offing. More than anything else, the reelection of the Socialist leader and his appointment of a fellow Socialist as his new premier bode very well for the much-sought-for independent European stand on global issues. A so-called conservative in the Elysée Palace would have meant a French leader who, as a rule, tends to see eye-to-eye on most issues with Washington. This would be detrimental to the Arab quest for a just and honourable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, given the heavy American bias in favour of Israel.

One needs little reminder of the gradual but steady move by Paris towards justice and fairness, sharing almost identical views with the Arabs, after Mitterrand assumed power in 1981 after numerous decades that had showed the extent of Zionist influence in French politics. Mitterrand, by virtue of his own convictions, managed to steer clear of such hurdles, and pursued a course compatible with the Arab search for a balanced European stand — uninfluenced by friends across the Atlantic — and restored some semblance of "a free Europe," unhindered by pressures that had previously managed to dilute the traditionally strong relations between Western Europe and the Arab World. Through his fair stand, Mitterrand was instrumental in bringing about vital change in the European trend to look at the Arab World through Washington, either in the context of the European Economic Community or in a bilateral European-Arab context.

We are heartened by Mitterrand's victory, and it gives us much pleasure to congratulate the Socialist leader and to voice hope that the new strength of Socialists in France may herald a new era in which Europe adds further power to its support of the Arab call for just and comprehensive solutions to the problems of the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Forty years of struggle

SUNDAY witnesses the end of 40 years of injustice done to the Palestinian people following the 1948 disaster. Over the past four decades, the Palestinians have been subjected to suffering at the hands of Zionism and the Jewish state whose establishment on Palestinian land was an unforgettable sin. The presence of this state has brought disasters and suffering to Arab people surrounding it, causing much unrest in the Middle East. Reminding ourselves of this disaster should not be cause for distress and grief but rather it ought to serve as an incentive for reconstructing the Arab Nation's forces in a manner that would enable the Arabs to confront the continuous challenges in Palestine and the threats looming in the offing. The 1948 sin has had serious repercussions in our region and has contributed to the deterioration of the situation in the Arab region and endangered world peace. Such a situation calls on the Arabs to pool their resources and all their efforts so that they can resume their role and their influence on the events of this region, and work seriously for regaining their lands and their rights in Palestine. The uprising in occupied Palestine proved once again that only through joint efforts and closed ranks can the Arabs confront their enemies and abort their conspiracies. The May 15 anniversary and its disaster calls on the Arabs to work together and rise again in a serious struggle to end the disaster and re-establish peace.

Al Dustour: Israel provokes Muslims

THE Israeli authorities Friday unleashed its barbaric forces in the mosques of Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron and Nablus to desecrate the holy places and to practice their inhuman measures against the worshippers. This action was a flagrant provocation not only for the Arabs but also for 1,000 million Muslim people around the world. The Zionists, blinded by their military might, are no longer giving any regard to values or principles and are unhindered by any morals or norms of conduct in their dealings with the Arab and Muslim people under their rule. The Israeli soldiers' actions are reminiscent of the barbaric invasions committed in the middle ages when no international rules controlled the behaviour of human beings. The atrocities committed by the Israelis in the Aqsa Mosque over the past two days and the violations of the sanctity of the holy shrines represent another facet of Zionist behaviour, and reveal another aspect of Israel's evil nature. Despite the fact that none of these measures has so far succeeded in quelling anti-Israeli protests, the Israeli authorities have not yet given up their belief in the use of force as a means for dealing with the Arab population. The Israelis are going ahead with atrocities and repressive measures to suppress the uprising and kill the spirit of resistance in the heart of our people. The Israeli actions represent a real challenge to the Arabs and Muslims, and call for immediate action to deter the aggressors.

Sawt Al Shaab: King reaffirms Arab, Muslim ties

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his performance of the Omra religious rites in Mecca and Medina was a reaffirmation of Jordan's orientation towards peace based on justice and faith. His talks with King Fahd and his meeting with the Pakistani president reflect the Kingdom's endeavours to rally Arab and Muslim people for serious and active endeavours leading towards peace. The talks form one more stage in the King's efforts to maintain solidarity among brothers and friends with whom Jordan should work hand in hand for achieving that end. The meetings in the holy places are bound to corroborate inter-Arab and Islamic relations and boost Arab-Islamic action. Jordan has been instrumental in helping Afghanistan steer back to the path of peace by mediating among the different parties towards reaching a peaceful and honourable settlement. Jordan's moves in this direction has not only helped Muslim people to regain stability but also contributed towards the establishment of real peace.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Switch on the internal engine for economic growth

THE ANNUAL depreciation of fixed capital invested in Jordan would be estimated in the range of JD 140 million. The reason for the relative importance of this figure is that most, if not all, large scale projects built in recent years were extremely capital intensive.

If we assume that the overall average rate of depreciation of fixed capital in machinery, equipment, buildings, roads and transportation equipment etc. is 5 per cent a year, we can deduce that the value of fixed capital, excluding land, put into economic production is roughly JD 2.8 billion.

Depreciation of productive assets should be taken into account before arriving at the national income. Unfortunately accounts for gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national product (GNP) do not take depreciation into consideration.

The relatively very high value of depreciation and obsolescence of fixed capital, make it imperative that new investments keep flowing in sufficient proportions. The country needs to invest JD 140 million every year just to replace, modernise and renew old and

obsolete machinery and equipment and other capital assets in operation, and to make up for their decreasing value and productivity.

Gross capital investment in Jordan is estimated in the range of JD 420 million annually. Therefore one third of this new investment — equal to depreciation — does not amount to new additions. It only compensates for the previous working assets being written off or depreciated during the same year.

Let us assume that the rate of return in the form of salaries, wages, profits, interest and rent, generated by new capital investment is 15 per cent. In that case the incremental value added accruing to the national economy would be no more than JD 30 million, or approximately 1.8 per cent of gross domestic product. This is roughly the annual real economic growth rate actually achieved during the last five years.

The obvious conclusion is that we need to create more productive

investments, both in quantity and quality, first to replace the depreciated fixed capital which wears away gradually with time and, second to cause an economic growth rate higher than the rates achieved in recent years, which were lower than population growth rate, thus allowing the per capita income and the standards of living to drop considerably.

In the past three decades, the engine for economic growth in Jordan was external. Capital poured into the country in the form of remittances by expatriates and financial aid to the Treasury from the Arab oil-producing countries. The two-cylinder external engine was out of steam and lost momentum as of 1982. We have now to forge our own internal engine of growth, not to replace the external sources — we continue to need external capital for the foreseeable future — but to support the weakened engine. The internal engine of growth can be sustained and fuelled only by new steady flow of investments in adequate volume.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Dukakis facing big hurdle but experts say he may beat Bush

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis leads his likely Republican rival Vice President George Bush in many opinion polls, but if the Democrat is to win the presidency he must surmount a major obstacle.

It is the electoral college system, established in 1787 to select U.S. presidents. For 20 years it has worked so strongly to the Republicans' benefit that, in the words of one political expert, they have a virtual "electoral lock" on the presidency.

American voters do not directly elect the president. On November 8, voters in each state will choose electors — 538 in all. These electors, in turn, pick the President.

A candidate who wins a plurality of a state's popular vote generally garners all its electoral votes, which vary with population. California has 47, tiny Rhode Island four.

Due to population shifts since World War II, a majority of electoral votes are in conservative southern and western states that have been strongly prone to vote Republican in presidential races. It takes 270 electoral votes to win the White House.

Southern and western states accounting for 220 electoral votes have gone Republican in all of

the party's four Presidential victories since 1968. The lone break in this pattern came in 1976 when a number of southern states were captured by Democrat Jimmy Carter, a southerner.

Carter, the only Democratic president in the last 20 years, also benefitted from anger at the Watergate scandal.

In the past nine presidential elections, 39 of the 50 states voted Republican most of the time.

"The electoral college gives us a very significant advantage," said Republican political consultant Eddie Mahe.

"Republicans have 15 or 20 states where they don't have to do much of anything or spend much money to win — Rocky Mountain states, Plains states, Indiana," Mahe told Reuters.

He predicted that, barring a grave unforeseen setback, Bush would trounce Dukakis with a 350-vote electoral majority.

Dukakis, who is widely seen as the certain Democratic nominee, says he is confident he can beat Bush.

And despite Bush's electoral college advantage, many Democrats and independent analysts agree Dukakis could win.

"They say voters are anxious for a change after eight years of Republican rule under President Reagan."

In several polls this year, re-

spondents have said they would prefer a Democratic president, and a recent Gallup survey put Dukakis ahead of Bush 49 to 44 per cent.

An ABC news poll last September showed 55 per cent wanted a president who would propel the country away from Reagan's policies in a new, less conservative direction.

Stuart Rothenberg, a political analyst with the Conservative Free Congress Foundation, said the 1988 issue agenda appeared to favour the Democrats.

"You don't hear people talking about the need for tougher defence, an important Republican issue. You don't hear them talking about tax cuts, an important Republican issue."

"There's uneasiness about the economy, concern about the elderly and disabled, day care, education, the environment — any and all of these are Democratic issues."

Rothenberg gave the Democrats at least an even chance of recapturing the White House, pointing to polls suggesting Bush would not do well with key swing voters — Democrats and independents who had voted for Reagan in 1984.

Exit polls taken in the recent Indiana and Ohio primaries showed that more than two thirds of the Democrats who backed Reagan in 1984 favoured Dukakis over Bush in 1988.

Republican presidential candidates have dominated the conservative south in recent elections and in 1984 Reagan carried every southern state by a big margin.

But many analysts think northern Dukakis could make inroads there if he chose a southern running mate and if the south's many black Democrats turned out.

Voting trend expert Kevin Phillips said the Republican coalition was weak on its fringes — the far west, where Dukakis might carry Oregon and Washington state, and in economically hard-hit midwest farm states such as Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio.

He noted that Dukakis was leading Bush by 50 to 40 per cent in California, a key state that could prove decisive.

Analysts are sharply split on whether Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, who ran a strong race before Dukakis pulled ahead, would help or hurt his party.

"Jackson, a black, has been widely deemed unelectable because of his race and left-of-centre views."

But some experts say he could be vital to Dukakis if he worked hard to pull blacks to the polls.

Andersson: occupation is crime

The following report is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Michal Yedelman

STOCKHOLM — Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Sten Andersson warned May 10 that failure to end the occupation could turn Israel into an outcast state and threaten its survival.

Andersson, who visited Israel in January, said the 20-year occupation created an impossible situation. "In a stormy debate in the Swedish parliament it was said that if we were occupied, we would have the right not only to use stones but to use arms against the occupier," he said.

Speaking in his Stockholm office to an Israeli press group, guests of the Association of Swedish Friends of the Kibbutz, Andersson said he urged PLO leader Yasser Arafat in a speech on May 1 to recognise Israel's right to exist.

"I told him that his best contribution to begin the peace process would be to recognise Israel's right to exist."

Andersson accused Prime Minister Shamir of hiding behind the Camp David accords. "Not to return the territories is a crime against international law and the Israeli people. How will Israel survive as a democracy? Will it throw all the residents out of the West Bank and Gaza? If it doesn't, they will be more numerous than the Israelis. There will be no democracy and no Israeli state," he said.

Andersson stressed his long and close relations with Israel and its leaders and explained his absence from Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations in Stockholm Town Hall.

He said that had he gone to the celebration held a few days after the assassination of Abu Jihad in Tunis he would have lost his chances of talking to the Arab states or to the PLO. Andersson said the Shultz initiative was the best way to launch the peace process during which the parties would gradually create mutual trust.

He emphasised the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to choose their own representatives to the peace negotiations.

The international conference, he said, should not have the right to dictate but is necessary because the parties to the dispute are unable to solve it alone.

Israel, he added, has a much stronger negotiating position today than it will have in the future. Therefore it must not delay talking to the Arabs. This is the only way it can survive as a Jewish democratic state.

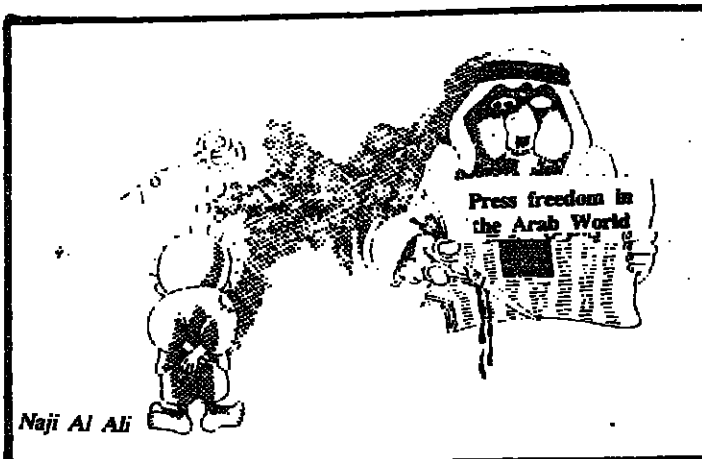
OPEN FORUM

The following poem was provided by the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief on the occasion of the national week for the mentally retarded in Jordan. The poem was written by the organisation's special teacher Birgitta Hemmingsson.

Guess what

Guess what people often ask when they find out you have a mentally retarded child?

They ask:
Can he sit, can he stand, can he walk, can he talk, can he eat, can he write, can he kick a ball or ride a bike? Nobody asks if he enjoys life, or if he has fun sometimes, or actually feels happy sometimes!



The politics of laughter

By Tim Groul-Smith

The following article is reprinted from London Calling, the magazine of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

A DOCTOR, an engineer and a politician were discussing which of their professions came first. The doctor reminded them of how Eve was created from Adam's rib, clearly an example of surgery. The engineer replied that the creation of the world from chaos was obviously a great feat of engineering. "Ah!" said the politician, "What about the chaos — who do you think was responsible for that?"

Scepticism about politicians is, I believe, one of the greatest unifying factors of humanity. A sense of humour is another. So political humour, laughing at governments and political systems, is a universal pastime and one that bridges a lot of the divides between nations. We all like to make fun of those who presume to govern us, and a good joke can't be stopped at the frontier.

But of course the form, style and importance of political humour varies in each country. Where politics are relatively peaceful, and don't matter deeply to people, there seems to be little political humour. There are also countries which have a reputation for lacking a sense of humour, immortalised in Mark Twain's phrase "A German joke is no laughing matter." Political humour can also be a barometer of change; jokes are said to have flourished in Nazi-controlled Norway and Denmark, and more recently have been diminished in Poland during the time of Solidarity.

On a recent trip to the Soviet Union, I was intrigued to learn that there were hardly any anti-Gorbachev jokes, apart from a mild punning associated with his anti-alcohol drive — that the General Secretary should be known as the Mineral (Water) Secretary — and the sort of jokes associated with any Communist leader newly appointed: "What's the difference between A (the deposed leader) and B (the new)?" "Nothing, only B doesn't know it yet."

By comparison the now revised "years of stagnation" produced a heavy crop of jokes against the vanity and vengery of Brezhnev: "Brezhnev and Kosygin were returning from a Warsaw Pact summit. 'Did you see that marvellous watch that de Gaulle gave Ceausescu?' asks Brezhnev. 'No,' replies Kosygin, 'show it to me.'" The bitter black humour of Eastern Europe, epitomised by the Polish joke: "What's three hundred yards long, moves very slowly and eats cabbage? A War-

saw meat queue", is something closely associated in most people's minds with Communist repression and economic hardship. But I was intrigued to discover that, certainly in Russia, such humour far pre-dates the Revolution. The 19th century writer Alexander Herzen called this sort of humour "self-flagellation" and said it was "our atonement, the only protest, the only revenge, that was possible to us."

Even in remote Tibet it seems that humour is in use as some small revenge against Chinese occupation. The actor Robert Barnett found on a recent visit that Tibetans cleverly manipulated Chinese prejudice and ignorance of the Tibetan language, for instance by teaching Chinese tourists guides the Tibetan for "Can I make love to you?" which the Chinese believed to be a request for permission to take photographs.

In six 15-minute programmes, *The Politics of Laughter*, it will be impossible to do more than sketch in some of the salient features of political humour around the world. While in Western Europe political humour is often rather an intellectual's pastime, in other regions it can literally be a matter of life and death — as the shooting of the Palestinian cartoonist Ali Naji Awad al Adhami in a London street last year demonstrated. Arab political humour has a long and distinguished pedigree, and is clearly still considered important enough to kill over.

"Bashir Gemayel, the murdered Christian president of Lebanon, arrived in Heaven, and Jesus asked him what he had done in his life. Despite Christ's entreaties, Gemayel refused to say a word. Jesus gave up and sent an angel to find out the reason for the obstinacy. 'Why should I answer?' replied Gemayel. 'I don't speak to Palestinians.'"

While many political jokes are of necessity private performances, there are some brave performers who test their government's liberality on the open stage. In South America, Pieter Dirk Uys runs a one-man show in which he imitates President Botha and Foreign Minister P.W. Botha as well as a range of Afrikaaner characters. He insists that the government writes all his material, but he still shocks his white audiences.

سكياتي، جرد

U.S. upbeat over Lebanon efforts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is encouraged by the willingness of Lebanese leaders to reach a power-sharing agreement that would enable orderly elections in Lebanon this summer, the State Department said Friday.

The remarks by deputy spokesman Phyllis Oakley were the first public indication of U.S. optimism over a five-month shuttle by veteran diplomat April Glaspey between Lebanon and Syria.

But privately, officials cautioned that agreement was not yet at hand. "It's slow going. It's a very plodding process," said one official, who asked not to be named.

Glaspey is mediating between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel for Syrian-backed reforms that would grant more political influence to Lebanon's Muslim majority.

Gemayel and his Christian backers have been reluctant to cede their dominance over Lebanon's political system in which the post of president has tradi-

tionally been reserved for a Christian. Gemayel and Assad have not spoken for more than a year.

"I would say we're encouraged in our conviction that responsible Lebanese leaders want to find fair guidelines for a process to establish a central government exercising full authority over a unified sovereign state," Oakley said.

"In that state, all Lebanese would enjoy comparable opportunities for advancement," she said.

"Accordingly, we believe an agreement on such guidelines is not only possible, but we hope can occur before the presidential election this summer," she said.

Under Lebanon's constitution, elections must be held before Sept. 23 but no date has been set. Gemayel is not running for a second six-year term.

U.S. officials are concerned that unless some arrangement is worked out between Damascus and Beirut, elections may be disrupted or not held at all. In that case, they fear, the ensuing power vacuum might send the war-



Israeli soldiers fan out in South Lebanon during Israeli accounts, three Israeli soldiers and 20 their May 2-4 incursion into Lebanon. According to resistance fighters were killed (Sygma photos)

town country into total anarchy.

The recent fighting in southern Beirut between the pro-Syrian Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah faction "demonstrates the urgent need to restore the authority of a central government," Oakley said.

"We abhor the loss of innocent lives and consider tragic the new wave of displaced persons," she added.

The latest truce between the fighting factions, arranged by Syrian and Iranian mediators, collapsed Friday.

Anti-Israel rally held in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demonstrators chanting against Israel and for a Palestinian homeland paraded past the White House and through the centre of Washington Friday.

Witnesses saw more than 1,000 men, women and children in the throng, carrying large banners, some with photographs of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian revolutionary leader.

The occasion was the last Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Palestinian, Pakistani, Iranian and other groups, including students, participated in the march.

Participants with portable loudspeakers led the orderly marches in chants such as "cancer of the Middle East, Israel must not exist." "Israel is the hate state." "Superpowers are the same. Down with all of them." "Zionism is terrorism." "Stop the holy land holocaust."

Some of the banners protested U.S. support of Israel.

Iraqis set ablaze 5 ships in Larak blitz

BAHRAIN (AP) — The world's largest supertanker was blazing out of control and four other ships were on fire, one of them sinking, after an Iraqi air raid Saturday on Iran's major oil terminal at Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz, shipping executives said.

At least 10 crew members were missing after the attacks, according to the executives, who said initial reports had indicated all crew abandoned the blazing vessels to safety.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said "large numbers" of jets took part in the rare long-range raid and all returned safely to base.

A large number of Iranian salvage tugboats were reported battling fierce flames aboard the Liberian-flag, 564,739-ton Seawise Giant, the world's biggest ship, from which oil was leaking. The executives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they received the information from ships in the vicinity.

The executives said that radio communications from the area have shown that the Seawise Giant had a crew of 50, and not 36 as had been originally reported. They said that the figure 36 was given when the number was rescued and now it appeared the remaining 14 were missing.

Radio communications also showed that two crew members of the 457,841-ton Burnham Endeavour, a British-flag vessel that also ranks among the world's five largest vessels, were missing. The Burnham Endeavour was however the least damaged, the sources said. Both the Seawise Giant and the Burnham Endeavour are used as "motherships" or oil storage depots.

The Spanish-flag 235,000-ton Barcelona, which was taking on cargo from the Seawise Giant, was sinking as a result of the attack, they said.

The other two stricken vessels were the 231,712-ton Iranian tanker Khark and the 152,004-ton

Cypriot ship Argosy, both shuttle tankers used by Iran to carry oil down the Gulf to Larak. The sources said these were still aflame, but damage was not too severe.

The salvage operation was basically concentrating on trying to save the Seawise Giant, one of the informants said.

The damage vessels at Larak sustained was not unusual. In two previous raids last year, Iraqi planes also damaged as many as five ships in each attack.

The Seawise Giant, which is operated by a Hong Kong-based company, was hit in both of Iraq's previous raids against Larak, in October and December last year. Both ships are chartered by Iran's government-owned oil company as floating storage depots, or "motherships," at the offshore terminal.

Iranians 'warn' U.S. ship

The sources said the Iranians apparently warned off a U.S. warship when it tried to move closer to Larak to check out the situation. The unidentified American ship was not heard to reply, and radios afterward were silent, the sources said.

A U.S. source, asking not to be named, said the U.S. navy had monitored a radio message from an Iranian F-4 phantom jet "requesting permission to attack a ship." There was no American vessel in the area at the time, and there was no indication of what ship was referred to, the source said, or what followed.

Although U.S. warships are now permitted to intervene on request in attacks as well as to provide "humanitarian aid" to

non-U.S. flag vessels, but only in international waters outside of either Iraq or Iran.

Territorial waters around a terminal or island are considered part of those zones.

Kharg, 360 kilometres from Larak, is in the Iraqi-declared exclusive zone, where ships entering are susceptible to attack.

The Iraqis recently intensified their air raids on tankers plying Iranian waters as part of Baghdad's bid to throttle the vital oil exports that help Tehran finance the 7½-year-old war.

The Baghdad high command has claimed nine air raids on "large maritime targets" off Iran's coast in the past two weeks. Three have been confirmed by the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit, which monitors maritime traffic around the world.

Iraqi attacks mainly are directed at tankers in Iranian waters closer to Kharg, and sometimes off Lavan Island, another terminal in the central Gulf.

Iraq plans fresh strategy

A senior Iraqi military commander said in remarks published Saturday that Iraq would respond to any new Iranian attack with its own offensive elsewhere on the battlefield.

Lieutenant-General Iyad Rawi, commander of the elite Republican Guard, told the Kuwaiti Al Qabas newspaper in an interview that the new strategy would prevent Iran from concentrating its troops in one place.

"From now, our forces will not only defend against Iranian attack. For every battle, we will launch a counter-attack along the length of the front, and if they attack in the north we will attack in the south or the centre and so on," Rawi said.

"This will force the enemy to station its divisions along the length of the front and will prevent it from being able to build up forces in one place," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Abu Nidal may be behind Citibank blast

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police said Saturday they suspect the Abu Nidal extremist group was responsible for the bombing at Citibank that killed two people. The blast in New Delhi Tuesday also injured 12 others at the U.S. bank's main office. "We have clues which we cannot divulge, but they point fingers at the Abu Nidal group," said a senior police officer. The officer said police were searching for five Middle Eastern men who checked out of a hotel near the bank on the day of the bombing. "We are looking for them all over India. They may be still in the country," he said. After the bombing, the U.S. embassy advised U.S. citizens in New Delhi to take security precautions. The Hindustan Times said Saturday police were in possession of "several pieces of evidence" that suggested the possible involvement of the Abu Nidal group in the blast. On March 25, police arrested an Arab after he shot and wounded a pilot for Alitalia, the Italian airline, at Bombay airport. Police sources at the time said the man, identified as Abbas Mohammad Ali Shahadi, was a member of the Abu Nidal group.

Ethiopia says it beat off rebel attack

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said government troops beat off a rebel attack on the Eritrean town of Keren Wednesday. The attack by the secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) was the second this month on Keren, 90 kilometres northwest of the Eritrean capital Asmara, the official Ethiopian News Agency said. It did not say when the first attack took place. An EPLF offensive began in early March. In the fighting Wednesday, the Ethiopian army destroyed the attacking EPLF unit, the agency said, without giving casualty figures. In an interview broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation Saturday, an EPLF official in Eritrea dismissed the government's account as fictitious.

Kuwait Airways flights stay suspended

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Airways flights to Bangkok and Manila will remain suspended until security on the route is reviewed, an airline spokesman said Saturday. The flights were halted after gunmen hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner en route from Bangkok to Kuwait April 5 and killed two Kuwaiti passengers before finally

releasing their remaining hostages in Algiers 16 days later. The airline originally said flights would restart early in May. Its flights on other Asian routes, which were also suspended, have now resumed, the spokesman said.

CIA honours killed hostage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly three years after he died as a hostage in Lebanon, William Buckley, a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official in Beirut, was honoured Friday in a military ceremony at Arlington national cemetery. CIA Director William Webster joined the families of four U.S. hostages now held in Lebanon in remembering Buckley as a man who loved his country. "Bill did things that none of the rest of us would have done," Webster said. "He lived by example." Webster brought along a letter from President Ronald Reagan, which said that Buckley "loved the United States...he cherished liberty." Buckley was seized in March 1984. He died June 3, 1985, in captivity, but his body was never recovered. He was 58. Buckley never married, but the ceremony in a shaded valley of the cemetery near Washington was attended by a longtime friend, Beverly Surratt, and two sisters, Maureen Moroney and Joyce Wing and their families. One of the speakers at the 40-minute ceremony was Peggy Say, sister of hostage Terry Anderson, who has been held in captivity longer than any of the other nine Americans. Anderson, the AP's chief Middle East correspondent, was captured in March 1985.

Turkish officials call up Kurdish leader

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish officials Saturday ordered a prominent Kurdish guerrilla leader home — to do his military service in the armed forces that hunt his rebels. Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan was one of 94 people listed in the official gazette as wanted by the military service bureau in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir. Ocalan, said to be based in Syria, and others listed could be deprived of their rights to Turkish citizenship, the bureau said. The list included the names of other Kurdish rebels. More than 1,000 people have died in a four-year-old PKK insurgency in the southeast aimed at winning autonomy for Turkey's eight million Kurds.

'Jordan will never allow itself to be alternative homeland'

(Continued from page 1)

(Jordan) fighting on Palestinian soil for the realisation of their rights, we believe this is the course to be followed by the Palestinian people," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said Jordan understood the plight of the Palestinian people "who have become a part of us, the one family united by the principle they bind us as it did bind our ancestors."

He said "pluralism enriched societies and the respects of others in this Arab land is a basic matter in our perception of responsible citizenry." He echoed King Hussein's view that "when we talk of the responsibility formula, citizenship requires that we also talk about the balance between rights and duties."

Prince Hassan said that Jordan, in true commitment to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, would continue to extend support for the Palestinian people, helping them to regain their land and their rights.

Prince Hassan said Jordan was sparing no effort at any level and in international forums to regain for the Palestinians their rights and their homeland.

He said that the slogans of the Great Arab Revolt, which included freedom for the Arabs and unity and the right to self-determination, were honoured by the leaders of the revolt who did not compromise on any land and preferred banishment to subjugation.

"These same slogans are still guiding our steps these days when we are demanding freedom, unity and the right to self-determination," Prince Hassan said.

These slogans are being raised nowadays in view of the injustice in the occupied Arab land and the continued military occupation. Prince Hassan noted. He said the Palestinian people on the West Bank were seeking to achieve freedom and self-determination which should be attained on Palestinian soil. Jordan will continue to stand firm in the face of all conspiracies against the

Palestinians and the Arab Nation at large and will continue to open its arms for free Arabs from all parts of the Arab World, Prince Hassan stressed.

Prince Hassan said Jordan had spared no effort on the international level to bring justice and peace to the Middle East. King Hussein has been to all corners of the globe to present the case of the Palestinian people and to seek peace based on justice and return of the lands to their lawful owners.

"We in Jordan have a basic task to keep the Palestinian issue alive and to maintain the Arab identity in the Palestinian Arab land, including Jerusalem and its holy places," he said.

Referring to the Gulf war, Prince Hassan said: "In the eastern flank of the Arab World we witness Iran's aggression on Iraqi territory. But the Iraqi armed forces and people are heroically repelling aggression. We are living through circumstances that require further deepening of the meaning of stability and Arab identity, cohesion and cooperation so that we can continue building up the country and our strength to defend the Arab Homeland."

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, Prince Hassan said Jordan had busied itself with that issue for the sake of helping the Muslim people of that country to reach peace. He said the Soviet Union had ensured the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan and accepted the return of the refugees to their country and endorsed their rights to self-determination.

These three matters, he said, are closely linked to the Middle East issue. He said one should remember King Hussein's role in contributing to the final agreement, and also his continuous endeavours within the Arab Nation which ended in a successful Arab summit meeting at which consensus was achieved among the leaders.

"Contacts with Arab and Islamic nations will continue so that coordination can be achieved in

all matters of concern at all regional and international levels," Prince Hassan said.

In his speech Prince Hassan announced that in the coming three months — June, July and August — he will be touring different provinces of the Kingdom to promote dialogue with the public and maintain the links with the people over different issues.

The iftar was attended by Tafelgh governorate's notables and dignitaries, tribal leaders and heads of municipal councils and

other officials of the governorate. The Crown Prince was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, the ministers of information and interior and the King's advisor on tribal affairs.

In Amman, Higher Education Minister Nasereddine Al Assad attended an iftar on behalf of the Crown Prince. The iftar, hosted by the Crown Prince, was attended by heads and members of professional associations in Jordan.

Syrians poised to enter Beirut suburb

(Continued from page 1)

since about 7,000 soldiers were sent into all areas except for the southern suburbs in February last year to end militia lawlessness.

The new Syrian positions faced a mosque overlooking the Syrian-controlled airport road and other positions seized Friday by Hizbollah in fierce battles with Amal. Pro-Syrian sources told Reuters the Syrian forces would push into the suburbs Sunday, but would warn the warring factions to stop fighting and withdraw from the streets before moving in.

"The Syrian soldiers have orders to shoot any gunmen in sight once they start entering the suburbs," one source said.

At least 180 people have been killed and more than 550 wounded in the war for the suburbs between Amal and Hizbollah. A Hizbollah spokesman described the Syrian military moves as "intimidation by Amal and those around it."

"The Syrians would have told us if they intended to deploy. So far they have not," he said. "We are not against the Syrian option."

A high ranking Lebanese military source said: "They're going to move in peacefully under an agreement being worked out by the presidents of Iran and Syria."

Asked whether Hizbollah would resist the Syrians, since the party's spokesmen have repeatedly contended there was no

need for a Syrian intervention, the source said: "I don't think so. Iran is supposed to see to it that no resistance is put up."

An Amal official said: "Syrian officials informed Amal leader Nabih Berri this morning of their decision to deploy Syrian troops in the suburbs and halt fighting there."

"The Syrians have decided to enter the suburbs after Hizbollah's refusal to heed to their warnings and peace efforts," said a pro-Syrian official.

Some of the 22 foreign hostages in Lebanon are thought to be held captive by pro-Iranian militants in cellars and apartments in the southern suburbs and a move by Syria into the area would confront Damascus with the problems of their fate.

Some sources believe the hostages, who include Americans and Britons, were moved out of the suburbs during the fighting. Beirut's Al Shiraa magazine, which has close links with Amal, reported that some were transferred to the home of Hizbollah spokesman Ibrahim Al Amin in the Bir Al Abed neighbourhood.

Syria warned earlier on Saturday it might intervene strongly against Hizbollah, which gained control of about 80 per cent of the suburbs in the fighting with Amal.

A spokesman for Syria said Hizbollah's gains in the suburbs created an "abnormal situation" which hampered security.

King, Iraqi leader hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

relations between Jordan and Iraq and bilateral cooperation."

The King expressed his appreciation and admiration for "the Arab competence and ability to liberate Arab land despite all difficulties and obstacles."

The Iraqi liberation of Fao, the King said, "gives the Arab Nation great hope for restoration of Arab rights on every inch of Arab land," Petra said.

The two leaders' talks, which included an iftar hosted by the King in honour of the Iraqi president, were attended by Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yassin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Upon his arrival and departure, the Iraqi president was received and seen off by the King and high-ranking officials.

Israeli army lifts siege

(Continued from page 1)

ing has called for a general strike Sunday to commemorate "the Day of the Black Disaster," the first day of the Zionist state.

Israel proclaimed its creation May 14, 1948, which took effect after British mandate forces pulled out at midnight.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat Saturday renewed his call to the United Nations to use its small contingent of peace-keeping observers headquartered in Jeru-

salem to save and protect Palestinians.

In a press conference in Baghdad, Arafat accused Israel of carrying out mass killing of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza "under the very nose of the international community."

"It is high time that the international community moved to save and protect our people under Israeli occupation," he said, reiterating his previous calls for such assistance.

Kuwaiti writer welcomes call

(Continued from page 1)

land. Neither would it be sufficient for crushing Persian arrogance and imposing peace on the Tehran regime, he said. "But, the creation of a unified Arab force under the aegis of the Arab League for protecting Arab territories in the face of foreign aggressors will be considered as a favourable development in the process of ensuring a comprehensive Arab security and would revive Arab hopes for a better and more progressive Arab League," he wrote.

The writer wondered about the outcome debate of this proposal at the next summit and predicted that the Arab leaders would either give it an all-out support in which case they would decide on the formation of two corps instead of one to be deployed at any spot that could be subjected to foreign aggression or would accept the proposal without any modification. If the Arab leaders are inclined towards the second option, Saqqaf wrote, it means that the Arab leaders have decided to prove to the world that they want solidarity among Arab states.

"But, if the leaders reject the

proposal, wittingly or unwittingly, they will be telling the world that solidarity among their countries is none of their concern and that holding the nation together was not on the agenda of their meetings."

The Arab League, Saqqaf said, is more than 43 years old but is still revolving in a vicious circle and so "we would be doing an injustice if we ask this league to perform miracles... because it embodies Arab countries with all their contradictions that tend to obstruct positive work and impede Arab League activity... This is a reality which all Arabs realise."

"It is unjust and unacceptable to see Iraq fighting alone for eight years against the Iranian aggression, which is directed not only at Iraq but also at the rest of the Arab World, without hearing the Arab summits taking a practical step designed to deter such aggression or stem Persian ambitions in Arab land," Saqqaf wrote.

He expressed hope that the Arab leaders' conscience would witness and awakening at the summit, which will be held in Algiers next month.

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Economy

Gorbachev calls for urgent steps to solve food problem

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called Friday for urgent measures to solve the country's chronic food supply problem and demanded a shakeup of the farm system.

Gorbachev told a meeting of agricultural specialists and farm chiefs the Soviet leadership was determined to ensure that new family and group farming units were formed on a large scale throughout the country.

"To prevent our people losing faith, we must solve the food problem in the very immediate future," he said in a speech broadcast on Moscow television's evening news.

Anyone who stood in the way of the introduction of the farming units "will have to be told to move aside," he said. "There are no two ways, either they support us or they have to be removed."

For two years Gorbachev has championed the units, which are run by families or groups of farmers renting land from the collective, or state, farms. He said they "offer the fastest way to solve the food question."

Gorbachev added: "The people, the farmers want this. They know the unit system is successful where it has been implemented and opens all possibilities for the

development of their initiative."

Political analysts said Gorbachev's determined tone and the broadcast of his speech in prime time clearly reflected growing concern in the Kremlin at the effects of food shortages on public morale.

Soviet commentators and intellectuals who support the Kremlin chief's "perestroika" reform programme have been saying publicly that the absence of basic food items in shops is playing into the hands of its enemies.

"This is the Achilles' heel of perestroika," playwright Mikhail Shatrov told professors and teachers in a lecture at the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences in Moscow Wednesday.

In recent months, Soviet newspapers have reported that sugar rationing has been introduced in many cities and other staples are in short supply or are unobtainable in many areas.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda published a letter last week from a farmer in the dairy-farming Tyumen region re-

porting that milk and meat products were missing from the shops there.

Among items in short supply in Moscow, normally better supplied than most other areas of the country, are meat, sausage, vegetables and fruit. Sugar is not rationed in the capital but few shops have it.

Under the family or collective unit system, which Gorbachev supporters say has been strongly resisted by conservatives opposing his reforms as well as by party bureaucrats and many farm chairmen, small parcels of land are leased out.

Members of the units are allowed to keep profits from selling produce that remains after meeting collective or state farm targets.

Gorbachev said Friday the system "releases the human desire for a farmer to feel his own master, gives him independence and an economic incentive by demonstrating faith in his initiative and responsibility."

He made clear he was not aiming to dismantle the present system of state and collective farms.

The units would remain part of the larger farms, he said, although they should be allowed to operate with a broad degree of independence.

EC officials hold talks

TRAVEMUENDE, West Germany (AP) — Finance and economics ministers from the European Community (EC) met Saturday to consider proposals to increase monetary cooperation and harmonise taxation aimed at creating a barrier-free internal market.

The proposals include plans for the creation of a single EC currency.

The Community's finance and economics ministers as well as central bank presidents from the 12 EC nations attended the closed-door session.

Several key West European leaders, including West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, have proposed creating a common EC currency as well as a central EC bank to manage it.

But observers say creation of such a currency could be fraught with so many problems that it may be an impossible dream.

In February, Genscher urged that the EC appoint a team of experts to come up with a definite plan.

Genscher, former French finance minister Edouard Balladur and others have said a common EC currency would strengthen West European unity and help smooth the way to a barrier-free internal market throughout Western Europe by 1992.

Jordan, Egypt sign \$250m trade protocol

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf has returned to Amman after a visit to Cairo during which he held talks with Egyptian officials on boosting Jordanian-Egyptian trade and signed a protocol for organising trade between the two countries.

In a statement upon returning to Amman, Saqqaf said that the trade protocol stipulates that \$250 million worth of goods would be traded between the two countries on equal basis.

Saqqaf said that national products exchanged by the two sides under the terms of the protocol will be exempted from any custom fees or any other taxes.

In talks with the Egyptian side, agreement was reached for organising trade fairs for Egypt and Jordan in the capital of each other and for selling national products at the fairs for a value not exceeding \$2 million, Saqqaf noted.

Jordan needs Egyptian rice, cotton, aluminium, broad beans, sugar cane, and ammonium nitrates and Egypt requires Jordan's cement, lead, copper aluminium fluoride, glass and cooking gas stoves, according to Saqqaf.

He said that he met with the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade to discuss means of promoting bilateral investments in economic and industrial fields and means of removing obstacles impeding trade exchanges.

Japan's trade surplus falls

TOKYO (AP) — For the 12th month in a row, Japan's trade surplus in April fell below the previous year's level, registering \$6.75 billion, the finance ministry announced Friday.

The surplus in Japan's worldwide trade during April declined from \$7.46 billion in March and \$7.54 billion in April 1987, the ministry said.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States also continued to fall, dropping to \$4.13 billion in April from \$5.13 billion a year earlier.

Ministry officials attributed the steady year-to-year decline mainly to the rise in value of the yen, which makes Japanese products more expensive overseas and tends to make imports less costly in Japan.

"In the background of this trend is, of course, the yen's appreciation for more than two years," a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Its rise has made imports much cheaper."

Although the higher value for the yen has reduced the cost of imports, surveys show that much of the savings has not been passed on to consumers.

Imports surged 31.0 per cent from the previous year's level to a record \$15.67 billion for the month, while exports rose 15.0 per cent to \$22.42 billion, the ministry said.

Officials said manufactured goods accounted for a record 49.9 per cent of imports in April, surpassing the previous record of 48.8 per cent set in February.

Particularly notable was the increase in imports of manufactured goods from newly industrialised Asian countries such as Taiwan and South Korea, the officials said.

"Their products have been raising the overall level of imports," one official said. They said imports from those countries were rising because of improved quality and price competitiveness.

The reduction in the trade imbalance with the United States was encouraging to the Japanese government, which has been under strong pressure from the United States to reduce its large bilateral trade surplus.

Exports to the United States fell 1.2 per cent from the previous year to \$7.34 billion, while imports shot up 39.7 per cent to \$3.21 billion, the ministry said.

Imports of a wide range of U.S. products increased. Textile materials surged 62.1 per cent to \$67.6 million, while imports of business machines climbed 51.2 per cent to \$158.9 million.

Yeutter hails dollar's exchange level

HOT SPRINGS, Virginia (R) — U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said Friday the dollar's current exchange rate made American exports competitive abroad, but he added U.S. firms must do more to sell their products successfully.

"We are price-competitive today," Yeutter said at a news conference after a closed-door speech to the Business Council, a group of American business leaders.

"The exchange rate clearly fosters exports," he said, but added that business people also must work to correct the nation's trade imbalance by upgrading their marketing skills and improving the quality of their goods.

He said U.S. firms need to recapture the domestic market from foreign rivals.

"One doesn't need to speak Japanese to sell in Kansas City," Yeutter said.

The Business Council, meeting at a resort in the western Virginia mountains, predicted in a summary of the economy that the U.S. trade deficit would fall to less than \$150 billion this year from last year's record of \$171 billion.

But the council said the drop

would not be enough to stop a further weakening in the dollar. It said business leaders anticipated that "the U.S. authorities would permit a further drop in the dollar rather than resort to sharply higher interest rates — unless the economy showed other clear signs of overheating."

Asked if he agreed with this, Yeutter told reporters: "I don't want to comment on that at all. If I comment on the dollar, that could move the market. I don't want to do that."

He would not predict the size of this year's trade deficit, either. Discussing other trade issues, Yeutter said high-level talks with the Airbus Industrie member nations are on hold because of the change of government in France.

"The United States has accused the four member nations — France, West Germany, Britain and Spain — of unfairly subsidising Airbus aircraft and putting U.S. aircraft makers at a disadvantage."

"At the moment, that issue is on hold at the ministerial level," Yeutter said, but added he expected the talks to resume in the near future.

Corporate profits seen strong through 1988

In a related subject, the earn-

ing power of many U.S. corporations has been boosted by new cost controls and better pricing, causing analysts to predict a continuation of the generally robust profitability shown in the first quarter.

"We're beginning to see the benefits of restructuring which has been going on in American industry since 1981," said Byron Wein of Morgan, Stanley and Co.

Wall Street analysts estimate profits in general will be up anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent this year over 1987 levels.

Several analysts suggest earnings prospects for the balance of 1988 are brightest in oils, chemicals and other basic industry groups, but they are cautious in their estimates for the retailing and apparel sectors, insurance, and housing related businesses.

For some groups, such as pharmaceuticals, the first quarter may have been the best of 1988.

"We visualise that the drug group had peak earnings growth of 22 per cent on an earnings per share basis in the first quarter," said Neil Swieg, analyst at Prudential Bache Securities.

He estimates group profits for the year will be about 20 per cent higher than in 1987.

Judith Comeau, analyst at

Goldman, Sachs and Co., said significantly lower tax rates are boosting earnings in 1988 for the aerospace group.

Although the industry is faced with rising costs and pricing pressures, she notes that most of the big companies are beneficiaries of changes in the tax laws. Lockheed Corp., she said, will see its tax rate this year drop to 24 per cent from 40 per cent last year.

Analyst Charles Brady of Oppenheimer and Co., who tracks the auto industry, said that of the major companies, Chrysler will have a "fairly flat performance for the year" but General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. should turn in good year-over-year increases.

When the dollar was high, he said, the companies repositioned themselves to make money with less market share, but now the dollar is in their favour.

Analyst Donald Fernow, who tracks oil companies for Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc., said he was "generally optimistic about the prospects for continuing good levels of profitability" after a strong start in the first quarter.

He said good marketing and refining results and enormous chemical earnings contributed to extraordinary profits.

South Korea to liberalise gold imports

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will liberalise gold imports in July as part of efforts to reduce its growing current account surplus, government officials said Saturday.

Officials at the Economic Planning Board said consultations were under way among concerned government ministries to work out details on the gold imports.

The government plan calls for gold imports as well as gold accessories to be imported with no restrictions beginning in July, they said. Foreign and local travellers may be allowed to bring up to 112 grammes of gold into the country.

Import tariffs and various domestic taxes would be cut from the present 116 per cent to 30 per cent to help encourage the gold imports, the officials said.

South Korea's gold demand was estimated at 38 tons last year, of which 24.5 tons were imported from abroad.

South Korea currently is under pressure from the United States and other countries to reduce its growing current account surplus, which totalled \$9.78 billion last year.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, May 7, '88 and ending Wednesday, May 11, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

| Name of company | Number of shares | Volume of trade | Opening price | Closing price | Par value |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Banking and financial institutions | | | | | |
| Industrial Development Bank | 100 | 141 | 1.410 | 1.410 | 1.000 |
| Petra Bank | 31214 | 63981 | 1.950 | 1.970 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Islamic Bank | 1055 | 1733 | 1.670 | 1.690 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Kuwait Bank | 4850 | 7100 | 1.450 | 1.470 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Gulf Bank | 15071 | 17420 | 1.150 | 1.170 | 1.000 |
| Housing Bank | 3930 | 6828 | 1.710 | 1.740 | 1.000 |
| Arab Jordan Investment Bank | — | — | — | — | 5.000 |
| Cairo Amman Bank | — | — | — | — | 5.000 |
| Bank of Jordan | 385 | 6116 | 15.100 | 16.060 | 10.000 |
| Arab Bank | 2000 | 228289 | 114.500 | 114.250 | 10.000 |
| Jordan National Bank | 2095 | 5196 | 2.470 | 2.480 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Finance House for Development | 2200 | 3525 | 1.170 | 1.100 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation | 5660 | 9324 | 1.880 | 1.920 | 1.000 |
| Finance and Credit Corporation | 16600 | 8657 | 0.500 | 0.520 | 1.000 |
| National Financial Investments | 20800 | 37440 | 1.800 | 1.800 | 1.000 |
| National Portfolio Securities | 9501 | 6307 | 0.700 | 0.700 | 1.000 |
| Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan) | 1500 | 2018 | 1.330 | 1.350 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Securities Corporation | 1588 | 1199 | 0.740 | 0.770 | 1.000 |
| Real Estate Financing Corporation | — | — | — | — | 2.000 |
| Al Mashrek Exchange | — | — | — | — | 10.000 |
| Insurance and reinsurance | | | | | |
| Jordan French Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| REPCO Life Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordan Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Arab Life and Accident Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Holy Land Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Philadelphia Insurance | 3834 | 3412 | 0.890 | 0.910 | 1.000 |
| Arab Union International Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jerusalem Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordan Gulf Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| General Insurance | — | — | — | — | 10.000 |
| Jordan Eagle Insurance | — | — | — | — | 10.000 |
| Middle East Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Al-Bidhar Insurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| National Ahliya Insurance | 50 | 63 | 1.250 | 1.260 | 1.000 |
| Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| United Insurance | 100 | 100 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Services and industries | | | | | |
| General Investments | — | — | 0.550 | 0.500 | 1.000 |
| Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities | 200 | 100 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 1.000 |
| Darco for Housing and Investment | 16000 | 6600 | 0.370 | 0.390 | 1.000 |
| Real Estate Investment (Aqaro) | 1250 | 481 | 0.300 | 0.300 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment | 850 | 255 | 0.750 | 0.700 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Leasing Corporation | 171 | 122 | 0.640 | 0.650 | 1.000 |
| Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments | 90629 | 13594 | 0.740 | 0.760 | 1.000 |
| Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeeroo | 1500 | 390 | — | — | 1.000 |
| International Contracting & Investment | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordanian Electric Power | 7497 | 10946 | 1.460 | 1.470 | 1.000 |
| Irbid District Electricity | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Arab International Hotels | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Hotels and Tourism | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Garage Owners Federation Office | — | — | 0.780 | 0.830 | 1.000 |
| Jordan National Shipping Lines | 4779 | 3910 | 3.500 | 3.250 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Press Foundation | 100 | 325 | 2.050 | 2.050 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Press and Publishing | 1200 | 2410 | 0.380 | 0.410 | 1.000 |
| Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing | 12350 | 5014 | 0.990 | 0.980 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Dairy | 5750 | 5642 | 2.000 | 1.980 | 1.000 |
| Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing | 17680 | 34988 | 1.270 | 1.260 | 1.000 |
| Intermediate Petrochemical Industries | 60745 | 76425 | 2.210 | 2.230 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Phosphate Mines | 970 | 2153 | 1.250 | 1.320 | 1.000 |
| Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj) | 2202 | 2892 | 3.900 | 3.930 | 1.000 |
| Arab Chemical Detergent Industries | 566 | 2224 | 1.170 | 1.170 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products | — | — | 1.820 | 1.790 | 1.000 |
| Aladdin Industries | 19700 | 22916 | 4.570 | 4.520 | 1.000 |
| Arab Aluminium Manufacturing | 36995 | 48603 | 1.040 | 1.060 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Worsteds Mills | 2189 | 10048 | 1.510 | 1.510 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Ceramics | 10059 | 10589 | 0.600 | 0.600 | 1.000 |
| Chemical Industries | 6900 | 10775 | 1.420 | 1.420 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO) | 20450 | 12597 | 2.820 | 2.770 | 1.000 |
| Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment | 500 | 710 | 1.500 | 1.490 | 5.000 |
| National Steel Industries | 79473 | 223301 | 1.220 | 1.300 | 1.000 |
| Universal Chemical Industries | 51000 | 75776 | 7.080 | 7.070 | 1.000 |
| General Mining | 750 | 975 | 0.210 | 0.220 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Petroleum Refinery | 4716 | 33415 | 0.500 | 0.400 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Lime & Brick | 193084 | 41893 | 1.130 | 1.090 | 1.000 |
| National Industries | 1500 | 625 | 1.140 | 1.140 | 1.000 |
| Arab Paper Converting and Trading | — | — | 3.050 | 3.000 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO) | 9728 | 10596 | 0.560 | 0.570 | 1.000 |
| Livestock and Poultry | 1325 | 1513 | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordan Pipes Manufacturing | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags | 2300 | 6950 | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordan Paper and Cardboard | 65610 | 37582 | 0.980 | 0.970 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Rockwood Industries | — | — | 0.740 | 0.770 | 1.000 |
| Trans-Jordan Minerals Research | — | — | 2.630 | 2.690 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Himeh Mineral | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Orient Dry Batteries Factory | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Woolen Industries | — | — | 1.950 | 1.950 | 5.000 |
| Jordan Tanning | 5150 | 10043 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Printing and Packaging | 140 | 560 | — | — | 1.000 |
| Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Mas Industries | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals | — | — | — | — | 1.000 |
| National Cable & Wire Manufacturing | 47790 | 46388 | 0.970 | 0.970 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Spinning & Weaving | 121970 | 95740 | 0.740 | 0.770 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Sulpho Chemicals | 37523 | 90329 | 1.070 | 1.060 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Cement Factories | 65685 | 69697 | 0.910 | 0.950 | 1.000 |
| Jordan Glass Industries | 2191 | 2088 | — | — | 1.000 |
| Grand total | 1,123,700 | 1,440,529 | — | — | — |

Kuwait doubles urea output

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — Kuwaiti urea production for fiscal 1986-87 at 804,000 tonnes was 102 per cent in excess of installed capacity and 117 per cent higher than in 1985-86.

According to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 1986-87 report, the company also produced 683,000 tonnes of ammonia during the period, recording an increase of 243,000 tonnes over the earlier year.

The report said "remarkable improvement" occurred in urea prices in the second half of the year, while the world market for nitrogenous fertilizers remained unstable through the first half of the year.

Urea sales increased by 1

NBA ROUNDUP

Boston beat Atlanta

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boston Celtics won the first two games of their Eastern Conference Playoff Series against Atlanta, but coach K.C. doesn't like the way they did it.

Boston wasted a 25-9 lead at the end of the first quarter, led by only six points at halftime and needed a strong final period to win 108-97 Friday night.

"It was not the smooth effort I was looking for," Jones said. "We've been doing it (squandering leads) for most of the year and last year."

Boston also wasted a 38-23 first-period lead Wednesday night and led by six points at halftime before winning the opener 110-101.

With the next two games of the best-of-seven series in Atlanta Sunday afternoon and Monday night, Jones said the Celtics can't afford to fail to take advantage of opportunities.

"We just have to, particularly going down there, get the lead and hold it and build on it," Jones said.

In Friday's other game, the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers fell behind 2-1 in their series with Utah as the Jazz won 96-89.

Jahangir wins 1988

World Squash Championships

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Jahangir Khan of Pakistan Friday won the 1988 World Squash Championships by beating title defender Jansher Khan, also of Pakistan, 9-6, 9-2, 9-2.

It took the 24-year-old Jahangir Khan, the number two seed, an hour and 17 minutes to reconquer his 1985 world title from top-seeded Jansher Khan, to whom he is not related.

Chris Dittmar of Australia, the number three seed, finished in third place by beating New Zealander Ross Norman 9-6, 9-5, 9-5.

Champion ready for squash's new bid

Jahangir believes sweeping rule changes will hardly affect his tactics when he defends his title next year.

Top professional players decided this week to change the game's scoring system, service rules and one aspect of the court layout in a bid to make the sport attractive to spectators.

The changes, some of the most revolutionary in the game's history, were decided on at a meeting of the International Squash Players Association (ISPA).

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SIGNAL THE SHIFT

East-West vulnerable. South way to six spades. Note that North had no inclination to probe for a grand slam—a preemptive opening denies possession of two aces, so North knew his side was off a quick trick.

NORTH
♠ K 7
♥ A J 5
♦ K
♣ A J 8 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 10 9 3
♥ Q 10 7 6 2
♦ A 10 7 6 2
♣ 10 5 2

EAST
♠ J 9 6 5
♥ K 8 4
♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 4 3 2
♥ 7 4 2
♦ S 3
♣ Q

The bidding: South West North East
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠. As a general principle, you signal attitude at trick one—whether you like the lead or not. However, suppose dummy shows up with a singleton in the suit led. Now third hand can use a suit preference signal: the highest card in the suit led requests a shift to the higher-ranking side suit; a low card asks for the lower. But what if he wants opener to continue the suit led? A bit of card-reading and a modicum of intelligence can work wonders.

Consider this hand, where North-South quickly found their way to six spades. Note that North had no inclination to probe for a grand slam—a preemptive opening denies possession of two aces, so North knew his side was off a quick trick.

On this type of auction it is often unwise not to cash an ace right away, and West had no hesitation in choosing the ace of diamonds as his opening lead. East could see that, if he could get his partner to continue with a diamond, thereby forcing dummy to ruff, he would score a trump trick to defeat the slam. How could he prevent his partner from shifting at trick two?

East chose to follow to the first trick with the eight of diamonds, and it was up to West to read its meaning. West could not be sure the eight was not his partner's lowest diamond, but a club shift didn't seem right. And East certainly had to have a higher diamond, and could have used that to signal for a heart.

So West wisely decided his partner did not want a shift, and he continued with another diamond. It took declarer only a few moments to realize that his contract had gone the way of all flesh when West showed out on the first trump lead.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"My husband gave you bread crumbs all winter. He thinks you should scratch a little thank-you note in the dirt."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NYVER

GOWAN

KALILA

PHEPOR



SEEMS TO BE AN UNUSUAL WAY OF EARNING MONEY THESE DAYS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLADE ELOPE HUMBLE BURIAL
Answer: Another name for the divorce court—THE HALL OF "BLAME"

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Doctor: Budd case highlights lack of help

LONDON (AP) — Zola Budd's mild nervous breakdown highlights the lack of help available to young athletes who face the pressures of international competition, according to the doctor who treated her. While the South African-born runner was back in her homeland beginning her recuperation from nervous exhaustion, Dr. Ken Kingsbury said he had been trying to set up an athletes hotline to help youngsters who cannot cope with life in sports' fast lane. "I really wish there would be more thought given to concern and care for up and coming sportsmen and women in all sports, not just athletics (track and field)," Kingsbury told the Associated Press in a telephone interview Wednesday. "These youngsters are so vulnerable and a lot of care is needed." "I have made this point to the (British government's) sports minister to give much more thought to setting up these care systems."

Whitbread plans to quit sport

LONDON (R) — Reports that Britain's world and European javelin champion Fatima Whitbread was ready to quit the sport were played down by British athletics officials Thursday. Former world record holder Whitbread indicated she may retire before September's Seoul Olympics when she said she left for two weeks training in Cyprus that she had serious doubts about her future in the sport. But British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) spokesman Tony Ward said it was too early to be seriously concerned about her comments. "It has been a long hard slog through the winter and every athlete is at a low at this stage of the year. We are confident she will come back from Cyprus refreshed and in a completely different frame of mind," he said.

Schneider's opening qualifying time cancelled

MONTE CARLO (R) — West German Bernd Schneider's opening qualifying time at the Monaco Grand Prix was cancelled Saturday by the race stewards. The stewards said Schneider's valspeed contravened technical regulations concerning air-intake valves which were measured in a random test following Thursday's first official practice. Schneider's times from that session — he was 24th quickest out of 30 drivers — were all cancelled, but he was allowed to run in Saturday's final official qualifying session. Euro Brun's Stefano Modena of Italy was disqualified from the Grand Prix Thursday for failing to stop and have his car weighed in the pit lane.

Monaco moves 7 points clear in French title

PARIS (R) — Monaco moved seven points clear at the top of the French first division Friday when a Marcel Dibs goal three minutes before halftime earned them a 1-0 win at home to Nice. Monaco, who now have three games left, could be presented with the title Saturday if second-placed Bordeaux, who have four games remaining, lose against Paris Saint-Germain.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Flight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to tie up the loose ends of any projects you've been occupied with, and also to get your finances in better order. Don't become involved in any arguments over worthless material matters.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Don't allow your friendships to get mixed up with business affairs. A usually reliable expert is out of sorts, so don't rely on this person's advice.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Before you go out socially, try to improve your appearance so you will feel more sure of yourself. Don't let anyone get under your skin.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You have many duties to complete today, so don't allow your friends to distract you from them. Keep your head about you this evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Avoid a new business acquaintance who has your worst interests at heart. This is a good time to make some small investments.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): You could get in some very big trouble if you become involved in an argument between a superior and a friend. Get plenty of rest tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Try to get your financial affairs in better order. Enjoy some entertainment with friends tonight, but don't spend too much money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Spend some quiet time scheduling your work for the coming week. Do what your mate desires tonight instead of following your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You would be wise to pay much closer attention to your health in the days ahead. Postpone a short trip you have been planning.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Plan your week sensibly, and don't go off on any crazy tangents. This would be an ideal time to let your creative talent flow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Forget that financial worry for now, and enjoy the company of your family and friends. This should be a very relaxing evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Be sure to keep any promises you have made, and don't try to force your opinions on anyone. Make it a point to listen more and talk less.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Don't allow an unkind remark to ruin your good mood today. Set aside some time for recreation with your friends this evening.

Johnson in no condition to run, promoter says

TOKYO (R) — World champion Ben Johnson of Canada is unfit to run after pulling up in a 100 metres race and it is not clear how long he will take to recover, a Japanese promoter said Saturday.

Johnson stopped after about 40 metres here Friday in his first outdoor sprint of the year, having felt a slight strain in his left leg.

The 100 metres world record holder's latest injury has jeopardized the start of his projected million-dollar race series against Carl Lewis.

Johnson, who cut short his indoor season in February due to an injured left thigh, underwent a check-up Saturday but a spokesman for race promoter Nihon Television said it was unclear how long his recovery was expected to take.

"He can walk, but he's in no condition to run 100 metres," the spokesman told Reuters. "He has been ordered to rest."

He said that he could give no details on the extent of the injury, but that it was not clear whether Johnson would be able to compete against Lewis.

Their three-race confrontation was announced this week by Heritage Sports Inc. of Williamsburg, Virginia. The two sprinters have agreed on 100-metre races in Paris on June 27 and Zurich on August 17, with the venue for a 200 metres to be arranged.

Tyson has no intention of giving up U.S. citizenship

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Tyson, the undisputed heavyweight champion, has no intention of surrendering his U.S. citizenship to live in Monaco, his manager said Friday.

"He was only kibitzing," Bill Cayton said of remarks Tyson made on an Albany television station Thursday night about becoming a resident of Monaco.

"He thought there was dual citizenship," Cayton said. "I said that's not right. He said, 'forget it.'"

Tyson had said on WYNT-TV that such a move would be mostly for tax purposes but also because Monaco is "a beautiful country. It's always sometimes nice to have a place that's kind of exotic and is far away from home and you can go there and be welcomed."

"I'm thinking of going there to live," said the recently-married Tyson, who maintains an apartment in Albany.

Monaco is a popular haven for wealthy celebrities because it has no income tax.

"I told him he should be proud to pay taxes," Cayton said he told Tyson.

Wimbledon wins F.A. Cup

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — A first half strike by Lawrie Sanchez etched a new name on the 107-year-old English F.A. (Football Association) Cup Saturday as modest Wimbledon upset league champion Liverpool 1-0 at Wembley Stadium.

The Northern Ireland international with the Spanish surname headed the only goal in the 36th minute to dash Liverpool's hopes of an unprecedented second cup and league double.

The result, only Liverpool's fourth defeat of the season, meant that Wimbledon captain Dave Beasant became the first goalkeeper to collect the coveted trophy.

It was handed to him by Diana, the Princess of Wales, to the applause of some 98,000 fans.

The game was billed as clash between the soccer aristocrats of Liverpool and the artisans of Wimbledon, a team of largely unheralded players whose sometimes bruising style has made them unpopular.

Liverpool provided almost all the high quality soccer but Wimbledon produced plenty of thrills.

Liverpool's England striker, Peter Beardsley, was a constant menace to the Wimbledon rear guard, and after going close twice with shots, thought he had fired

his side ahead in the 34th minute.

Despite being fouled by Andy Thorn, the little kept going and slotted an angled drive past Dave Beasant into the net.

Sadly for Liverpool, referee John Barnes drove the ball high and wide.

Two minutes later, the ball was in the other net and this time it counted.

From a free kick wide on the left, Dennis Wise swung the ball into the danger area and Sanchez guided it home with his head with Liverpool Bruce Grobbelaar static.

Referee Hill further angered the Liverpool followers for turning down a penalty appeal after a challenge by Eric Young on Aldridge.

Hill left the field at half time to a storm of boos, but 16 minutes after the break, he handed Liverpool a chance to equalise when Aldridge was brought down by Thorn inside the penalty area.

Aldridge got up to take the spot kick, but Beasant dived smartly to his left to palm the shot behind for a corner.

Beasant had earlier saved his team by sticking out a boot to block a goal-bound shot from Liverpool's captain, Alan Hansen.

Liverpool's other best efforts were a close range effort from Steve McMahon, which was palmed away by Beasant, and a last minute header from Steve Nicol which just cleared the crossbar.

For Wimbledon, Terry Gibson headed wide and John Fashanu and Young both forced Grobbelaar to make diving saves.

The second half introduction of former Real Madrid winger Laurie Cunningham added a new dimension to Wimbledon's forward play, while Liverpool brought on South African-born Craig Johnston and Danish international Jan Moelby in a bid to break down the Wimbledon defence.

But Beardsley was unable to repeat his first half form and Barnes continually ran into defenders rather than round them as the usually well-oiled Liverpool machine ground to a halt.

4 Napoli players revolt to miss final

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Four Napoli players who led a revolt against trainer-manager Ottavio Bianchi have been left out of the squad for the defending champions' crucial final match of the Italian Soccer League season Sunday against Sampdoria.

A statement by the club said Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino had allowed the four — Salvatore Bagni, Moreno Ferrario, Claudio Garella and Bruno Giordano — to stay away from the stadium and take a few days leave.

Ferlaino met the four at their request Saturday. "In the course of the talks they displayed their bitterness at what had happened

and expressed their state of mind," the statement said. A club spokesman said the players had approved the text.

The revolt against Napoli, who led the team to their first league title last year, crowns a traumatic end to the season for Napoli — four points clear less than a month ago and now two points adrift of AC Milan.

Argentine World Cup star Diego Maradona has remained silent on his teammates' action but both he and Brazilian Careca are expected to miss Sunday's match because of injury.

Napoli's only hope of retaining the title is to be beat fourth-

placed Sampdoria at home, pray Milan lose away to Como and then go on to win a one-match playoff.

Napoli players apologized to club officials and fans Friday for the revolt but pointedly excluded from the statement any reference to Bianchi, who they blame for their slump.

The club has confirmed its faith in Bianchi and promised an inquiry into the grievances.

Bianchi, 44, has been with Napoli since 1985. He has not commented on the revolt and newspaper commentators Saturday were divided in their speculation about whether he would quit or fight to stay on with the club.

Carlsson overpowers Noah

ROME (AP) — Fifth-seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden upset No. 4 Yannick Noah of France in a two-hour three-set battle, and Haiti's Ronald Agenor whipped American sensation Andre Agassi in just 53 minutes to reach the semifinals of the Italian Open Tennis Championships.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl continued his march, winning a prolonged quarterfinal match over unseeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

In the final quarterfinal match at the Foro Italico, No. 6 Andres Gomez of Ecuador played No. 14 Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina.

The unseeded Agenor, who upset defending champion Mats Wilander in the third round, beat the ninth-seeded Agassi 6-3, 6-1 to end the 18-year-old American's 14-match winning streak.

Agenor, ranked 45th in the world, ran Agassi around the slow red clay with a sharp fore-

hand. "I like to play against a guy like him because he we have the same type of game," said the 23-year-old Agenor. "He hits the ball hard but today I immobilised him a bit. I didn't think it would be so easy."

Agassi, who came to Rome after two straight clay-court tournament victories, said he was exhausted.

"My legs really hurt," he said. "If I had to run after every ball I would have had to be carried out on a stretcher. The longer I stayed out there, the worse it felt. That will teach me not to win two weeks in a row."

Carlsson, with his service return and passing shots clicking, beat Noah 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to advance to a semifinal match against Lendl.

The Swede, a clay court specialist ranked No. 11 in the world, had never beaten Noah in three previous matches. The script

looked the same at the start as Noah, No. 8 in the world, broke out to a 5-1 lead on the way to winning the first set.

But the tide changed after Noah aggravated an injury to his right knee while leaping for an overhead. A trainer sprayed the knee and Noah put on a leg brace.

The 20-year-old Carlsson capitalised on numerous unforced errors by Noah to take the second set, allowing the Frenchman only five points in the last five games.

Noah led 4-3 in the final set, winning 11 straight points at one stretch as the Centre-Court crowd went wild, chanting "Yannick, Yannick."

But Carlsson then won the next nine points and served out the match, ending it with a crosscourt forehand passing shot.

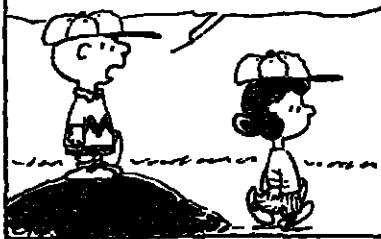
Noah was his usual acrobatic self, diving into the dirt for volleys and leaping for overhead smashes.

Peanuts

DOES THIS LOOK ALL RIGHT? I'VE GOT THE BALL UNDER MY CAP. I'M PULLING THE OLD "HIDDEN BALL TRICK!"



HOW ARE WE GOING TO START THE GAME IF YOU HAVE THE BALL UNDER YOUR CAP?

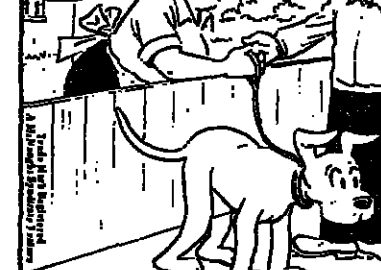


DO I HAVE TO THINK OF EVERYTHING?

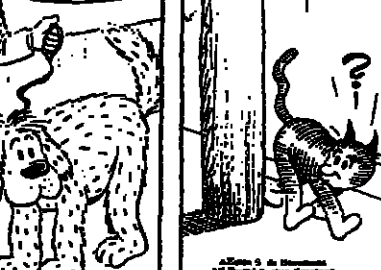


Mutt'n' Jeff

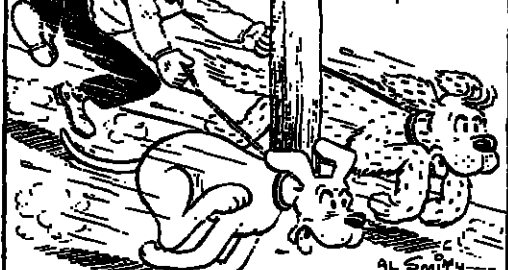
YOU WON'T LET MY ROVER GO, LOOSE MR. MUTT?



DON'T YOU WORRY, MAW—NOTHING WILL SEPARATE US!

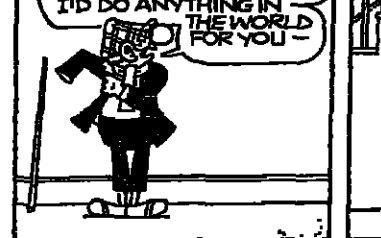


EXCEPT GIVE UP ONE OF YOUR SNOKKER NIGHTS

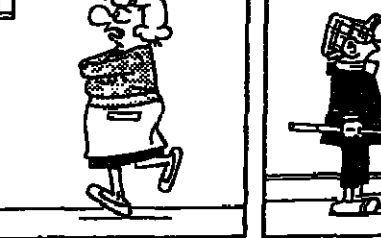


Andy Capp

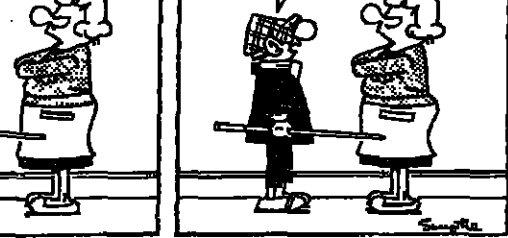
DON'T BE LIKE THAT, PET. YOU KNOW VERY WELL I'D DO ANYTHING IN THE WORLD FOR YOU



EXCEPT GIVE UP ONE OF YOUR SNOKKER NIGHTS



EXCEPT GIVE UP ONE OF YOUR SNOKKER NIGHTS



Kabul truck bomb kills 11

Soviets confident of smooth Afghan pullout

KABUL (R) — The commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan said Saturday he was confident that their pullout would go without a hitch but a truck bomb in Kabul killed 11 people only hours before it was to begin.

Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov said the Soviet troop withdrawal beginning Sunday was not a retreat or a defeat.

He warned the anti-government Mujahideen rebels that if they tried to harass the Soviet troops as they pulled out, "retribution will be quick and severe."

But barely three hours before General Gromov gave a news conference in the Afghan capital, a truck bomb exploded in central Kabul, killing 11 people, wounding 12 and providing a grim warning of the dangers ahead.

The bomb went off near reviewing stands from which President Najibullah and senior Soviet officials will salute departing troops Sunday.

The bomb followed a similar blast April 27 that killed six people and a rocket attack on the

capital May 9 in which 23 died. The tempo of guerrilla attacks is rising despite sharply increased security precautions and Soviet public statements of confidence that the situation is well in hand.

"The supply of armaments to the opposition (the Mujahideen) has increased drastically," Gromov said. "But the combat ability of the Afghans and their level of training has also been enhanced and they are ready and capable of repelling the opposition and ensuring stability in the country."

Gromov, 44, spoke of the "difficulties, sacrifices and losses" suffered by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and said casualty figures would be published shortly.

The United Nations observer force would be told the exact number of Soviet troops here and the figure would be made public.

In the conference hall, members of the 25-man U.N. force in military uniforms listened intent-

ly to the general's plans.

Gromov said the pullout, arranged after six years of talks resulting in last month's Geneva accords, would begin when more than 1,000 men left the eastern town of Jalalabad, close to the Pakistan border, Sunday.

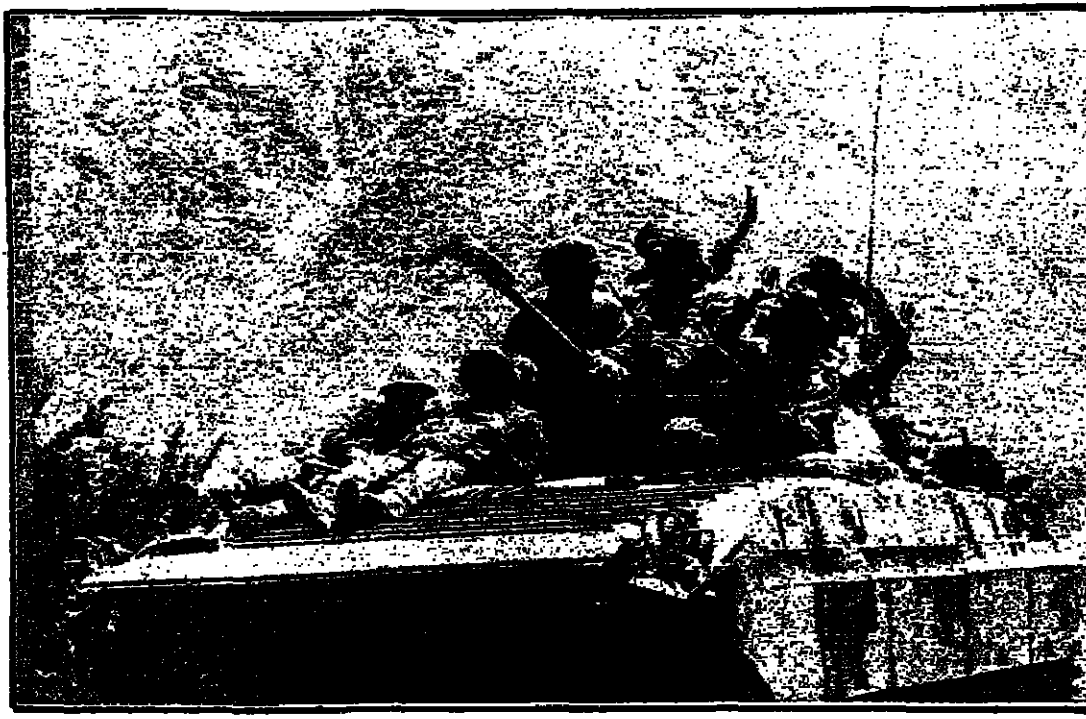
"It has not begun yet," he said, denying reports from Pakistan, and offering to let reporters go and see for themselves.

About a quarter of the forces, which Western estimates put at around 115,000 men, would have left Afghanistan by May 29 when the U.S.-Soviet Summit begins in Moscow, he said.

"This will make possible an atmosphere of trust at the summit."

"Gromov said Soviet soldiers were stationed in 14 of the country's 30 provinces. Most of them would be withdrawn by the shortest road leading north from Kabul, but some would use the longer western route through Herat."

They would leave behind for the Afghan armed forces equipment in 18 garrisons, worth 600 million roubles (\$938 million), he said. He gave no details of any of the equipment.



Soviet soldiers relax atop a battle tank in Afghanistan awaiting moving orders to leave the country (Sygma photo)

Chinese hijackers face lenient court

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Two men who hijacked a Chinese Boeing 737 to Taiwan face prosecution, but court officials said Saturday they would be treated leniently because they were "freedom seekers."

State radio said the case had been passed to the Taipei district prosecutors' office by the Taiwan garrison command, which is responsible for internal security.

Under Taiwan law, prosecutors will gather evidence and then decide whether to take the case to court.

The prosecutors office said the motive of the two men was "simply to seek freedom" and they would be treated leniently the radio reported.

The hijackers, armed with fake handgrenades and a toy pistol, took over the plane carrying 107 passengers and a crew of 11 as it flew from the southern Chinese city of Xiamen to Canton Thursday.

The plane slipped past Chinese MIG jets and was intercepted by Taiwan fighters who escorted it to a military base. The plane returned to China Friday after the hijackers left the plane.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 168 commercial airlines, called on Taiwan to either prosecute the hijackers or extradite them to China.

"It's a situation of considerable interest to us," Rodney Wallis, the association's security chief, said Friday. The association urges governments to discourage air piracy by not offering safe havens to hijackers.

Under the Taiwanese law, the charge that the hijackers face carries a maximum penalty of seven years in jail. If the defendants are accused of hijacking, they would face the death penalty. Command officials refused to say whether the more severe charge would apply, newspapers reported.

Police and the military can recommend charges to courts, which then conduct their own investigations based on the recommendations before deciding whether to file formal charges.

Marcos says he supports Aquino, urges supporters against coup bid

MANILA (Agencies) Ferdinand Marcos pledged support Saturday for President Corason Aquino and told his followers not to stage a new coup attempt against her as thousands rallied to demand the ousted leader's return.

Marcos, in a statement read by telephone from Hawaii by his spokesman Gemmo Trinidad, also asked Aquino to allow her deposed predecessor to return to bury his 95-year-old mother, Josefa Edralin-Marcos, who died May 4.

On Friday, Marcos claimed he was negotiating with Manila and Washington to return for the funeral and he expected the talks to be finalized in a few days.

There was no immediate comment from the government to Marcos' latest statement, broadcast by Manila radio stations. Earlier Saturday, Aquino's spokesman said the imminent return of Marcos was "impossible."

"I also reiterate that I oppose violence, that I have no intention of mounting a coup d'etat or causing a civil war," Saturday's statement said. "I therefore

advise my supporters and those who are fighting for the very same democratic principles that I stand for not to engage in any disruptive and more violent activities."

Earlier, Aquino's spokesman said Aquino and members of her

cabinet rejected the request because it would not be in the country's interest.

"We know the capabilities of the ex-president but his capabilities also depend on the United States... whether the U.S. will allow him to come back or not."

Pope issues anti-drug appeal in Bolivia

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (Agencies) — Pope John Paul, visiting the source of almost half of the world's cocaine, urged Bolivians Friday to combat drug trafficking, saying it was an inhumanity which perpetuated death and corruption.

"The commerce of drugs has become a real trafficking of freedom because it creates the most terrible form of slavery and sows your land with corruption and death," the Pope said at a mass for some 200,000 people in Santa Cruz.

His anti-drug appeal, the strongest since he arrived in Bolivia four days ago, came as a

Vatican official announced the resolution of a conflict with the Paraguayan government that had threatened to mar the final stage of his four-nation Latin American tour.

The official said a "difficulty" with the Paraguayan government, which involved its decision to cancel a meeting of the Pope, is due to hold with opposition politicians and intellectuals for security reasons, had been solved.

"I can say that the pastoral visit of the holy father to Paraguay will take place just as it was originally planned," the statement by chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Vals said.

Soviet daily attacks dissident party leaders

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet daily Moskovskaya Pravda accused the founders of a new unofficial opposition party Saturday of trying to bring about the return of capitalism.

It said the organizers of a three-day conference in Moscow last week at which the new group, The Democratic Union, was set up were trying to impose an alien ideology on Soviet society.

"That is the main truth about the Democratic Union: Dreaming of the restoration of capitalism under the code name of parliamentary democracy in the manner of the civilized free world," Moskovskaya Pravda said.

Police raided the conference, which was held at several flats and meeting halls in and around the Soviet capital attended by more than 100 people.

Four of the organizers, including dissident publisher Sergei Goryunov, were jailed for up to seven days. About 20 others were detained.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has made democratization of Soviet society a part of his "perestroika" restructuring programme, has called for "socialist pluralism."

But he has made it clear that this covers only an opening up of the Communist Party — the country's only political force — to a wider spectrum of views, and not the creation of new parties.

Conference planned

In another development, the Communist Party has begun choosing delegates to a June party conference being billed as crucial to the fate of Kremlin reforms, Moscow radio reported Saturday.

Gorbachev is seeking support from the conference for bold changes designed to make Soviet society and the party itself function more democratically.

Ideas which have been floated include limited terms in office for party officials of all levels and age limits for members of the Soviet leadership.

About 5,000 delegates will convene in Moscow on June 28 for the opening of the conference, the first since 1941.



Sinatra lashes out at books

NEW YORK (R) — Frank Sinatra defended his friends at the White House Friday and attacked sensational biographies, calling the authors "pimps and whores." During his first in-depth television interview in 25 years, the 73-year-old singer took swipes at the media and lambasted "kiss-and-tell" books such as former White House chief of staff Donald Regan's best-selling new book, "I'm saying those are the pimps and the whores," Sinatra said on a television chat show. "They're the ones who write the books about people with whom they had a kind of privy association... and suddenly they're out making a buck because they got a pigeon."

President orders soldiers to pray

DHAKA (AP) — President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has underscored his efforts to make Islam the state religion by ordering members of the armed forces to offer five prayers a day. Ershad said Friday that the prayers are now compulsory for Bangladesh's 150,000 servicemen because they had "taken the pledge to defend the sovereignty and independence of the country by putting their hands on the Holy Koran." About 90 per cent of Bangladesh's 105 million people are Muslims. Hindus, Christians and Buddhists serving in the armed forces are exempted from the mandatory prayers, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The government Wednesday introduced legislation to make Islam the state religion. Since Ershad's Jatiya Party holds 250 of parliament's 300 seats, the bill is expected to be approved.

Aga Khan jewels sold

GENEVA (R) — Diamond jewels owned by the late Aga Khan III and silent movie queen Gloria Swanson sold for millions of dollars at an auction Thursday night. The Aga Khan jewels, only a fraction of the collection when he died in 1957, sold for 4.68 million Swiss francs (\$3.35 million). His son, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, sold them through auctioneers Christie's to raise money for his Bellerive Foundation, devoted largely to environmental protection and stopping the spread of the desert in poor countries. "It's a powerful statement of his commitment to the environment and to development," said Nazir Sunderji, chief executive of the foundation. The jewels of the Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismaili Sect of Shi'ite Muslims, included a single 3.13 carat diamond that sold for 2.53 million francs (\$1.81 million).

Death row inmate distressed at reprieve

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — James Smith, bitter over a reprieve from his scheduled execution, acknowledged killing a Houston insurance office manager and said those trying to save him were "jerks." Smith, whose lethal injection was halted about six hours before it would have been carried out, blamed death penalty opponents for persuading his mother to pursue a request to the U.S. Supreme Court for a reprieve. "This woman doesn't know me," Smith said of his mother, Alexzene Hamilton. "She may understand some child who was under her care, but she doesn't understand this mature adult male." Smith said he did not want the stay because he did not want to waste away on death row. "This was a decision I had made. It was one last act of freedom I could make," he said.

SEC 'responsible' in sexual harassment suit

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. agency that regulates the stock market tolerated a sexually hostile environment in one of its offices, a federal judge ruled Friday. Testimony in the case of a female attorney who alleged sexual discrimination at an office of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed that sexual favors were sometimes traded for professional advancement. In testimony accepted by the court in a case filed in 1984, SEC attorney Catherine Broderick said a supervisor, while drunk at an office party, untied her sweater and kissed her.

Police tighten Golden Temple cordon

AMRITSAR, India (Agencies) — Commando-led Indian forces besieging Sikh militants in the Golden Temple are determined to end the shrine's role as a fortress, a senior police officer said Saturday.

"What matters is that the myth that they can use it as a fort will be destroyed," said Amritsar deputy police chief A.A. Siddiqi.

Since Monday, when the dramatic siege of the Sikh faith's holiest shrine began, more than 25 people have been killed, mostly militants fighting for an independent Sikh homeland they call

Khalistan — "land of the pure." Sikh gunmen waging a bloody campaign of assassinations and random killings across Punjab, India's breadbasket, have frequently sought safety in the Golden Temple.

"Freeing the temple of extremists would be the biggest psychological blow against them," Siddiqi said.

Commandos armed with machine pistols scouted alleys leading to the temple Saturday as other troops moved into the maze of streets surrounding the holy shrine.

Commandos, police and paramilitary forces now control virtually every high point overlooking the 6-metre walls around the complex. The government has deployed about 2,800 men around the Golden Temple, including 300 elite Black Cat commandos.

It is the biggest massing of forces outside the Golden Temple since 1984 when the army stormed the 400-year-old shrine to dislodge the Sikh separatists.

From the vantage point of a police post high above the complex Saturday, reporters could see two bodies of militants lying in front of the rooms in which the gunmen were trapped.

Each attempt to recover them was greeted by a hail of bullets from police who said the bodies had lain there since Friday.

Siddiqi said ridding the temple of separatists would not end the war in the north Indian state of Punjab, where he said they had plenty of men and arms.

However, the reported daily death toll in a campaign that has cost over 900 lives this year — compared to 1,230 last year and 640 in 1986 — has dropped notably during the six days of confrontation at the Golden Temple.

Seoul rally demands resumption of talks with North

SEOUL (AP) — Police used tear gas Saturday to break up a "grand peace march" by thousands of students demanding the resumption of unification talks with North Korea.

There were no immediate reports of arrests or injuries in the clash which took place in the eastern part of Seoul.

"Start unification talks immediately with the North," the students shouted as they marched out of Korea University where they held an anti-government rally for more than four hours.

An estimated 10,000 students from 70 universities throughout the country gathered at the school to urge the government of President Roh Tae-Woo to resume peace talks with North Korea.

Some prominent dissident leaders, including the Reverend Moon Il-Hwan, attended the rally. Also on hand were relatives of hundreds of jailed dissidents.

The students, many of them wearing headbands emblazoned with "unification," asked the Roh government to make concessions to persuade North Korea to take part in this fall's Olympic Games in Seoul.

"The Olympics must be co-hosted with North Korea to help speed up national unification," the students said in a prepared statement.

In a separate statement, the students proposed that student leaders of South and North Korea meet at the trace village of Panmunjom on June 10 to discuss national unification and the Olympic co-hosting.

Some radical students in Seoul proposed similar contacts with North Korea in recent weeks, but government officials said they would not allow such meetings.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE NO. 3/88
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION
OF
DIGITAL SWITCHING
EQUIPMENTS

Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 3/88 (Supply and Installation of Digital Switching Equipments) as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" to expand the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The project includes:

- Implementation of new large and small digital switching nodes including a combined National & International Switching Centre.
- Expansion and modification of the existing switching network.
- Supply and installation of power systems, air-conditioning and fire alarm equipments.
- Supply and installation of stand by Diesel Generators.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the Terms, Stipulations and Technical Specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit in addition to bid price a financing proposal to finance the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman, Jordan) as of May 14, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred Jordanian Dinars (JD 500).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1988.

Director General
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

1 killed in Zanzibar protest

DAR ES SALAAM (AP) — At least one person was killed and several injured Friday when police opened fire on a procession of protesting Muslims on the semi-autonomous Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar, witnesses said. The trouble started as the marchers approached state house, the official residence of the island's president. The Muslims were protesting against the head of Tanzania's national Women's Organisation, Sofia Kawaw, who this week criticised a section of Islamic law which allows a man to have four wives. "There was a commotion between police and the people when the procession tried to reach state house," said one witness reached by telephone. "The marchers were stopped and told not to go any farther. When they continued, police opened fire. One fellow has died and several are injured." There were unconfirmed reports that the leader of the protest, Sheikh Ali Yani, was arrested Friday evening.

Burma reports student killed in March

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — The findings of an official inquiry announced Saturday said 625 students were arrested and two students were shot and killed by police during riots in March. A government statement carried on the front pages of newspapers said the commission reported that 34 other people, including students, policemen and people living near the campuses, were injured in the March 12-17 violence. The three-member, government-appointed commission was headed by Uba Maw, a member of the council of peoples justices, or the supreme court. The statement did not say when the commission reported its findings to the government. The riots at the Rangoon Institute of technology and Rangoon University were one of the worst student disturbances in recent years in Burma, a tightly controlled nation under one-party rule. Authorities hadn't previously given any figure for arrests and said only one student had died, in unspecified circumstances, when riot police quelled rioting at the Rangoon Institute March 13.

U.S. conducts nuclear test

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Scientists exploded a powerful nuclear weapon Friday deep beneath the Nevada test site in the third announced nuclear test of the year. The blast, which had been delayed twice previously, had a yield of up to 150 kilotons, the largest allowed under existing treaties with the Soviet Union. The Energy Department said the test appeared to go smoothly, with no apparent release of radiation. "It appears to be a success," said department spokeswoman Barbara Yoerg. "Everything was

contained underground." Yoerg said ground motion from the explosion was not felt at the blast's command centre, 20 kilometres from ground zero. Seven Soviet scientists, who are staying at the site while preparing for joint verification experiments sometime this summer, were kept at the small settlement of Mercury, about 65 kilometres from ground zero. They were not allowed to monitor the blast, said Yoerg.

Tutu raises scholarship funds

BOSTON (AP) — South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged people to donate to his scholarship fund for refugee students from his troubled homeland as a means of striking a blow against apartheid. "You have come to invest in the young people," Tutu told a reception prior to a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner Friday night at a posh Boston hotel. "You can tell your grandchildren, 'I helped the world get rid of the scourge of apartheid. I helped South Africa become free.'" Under the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern Africa Refugee Scholarship Fund, colleges and universities provide four-year scholarships, while the fund covers living expenses, transportation, clothing, books, medical and dental costs. Organisers said scholarships were pledged by Boston University, Northeastern, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emmanuel College, Stonehill College, Regis College and Wesleyan College. In addition, \$70,000 in cash was raised to provide support for the seven scholarships. "Only those who have been victims of injustice and oppression will know just how powerful is conditioning," Tutu said to the approximately 200 gathered for the reception. "Racism should be removed from the face of the earth."

Filipino rebels strong near U.S. base

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels have a strong base of support around the giant U.S.-run Clark Air Base and it will take a long time to defeat them without more civilian support, a senior Philippine officer said Saturday. Major-General Ramon Montano, commander of the Philippine Constabulary, told troops in Angeles City that the Communists were well organised in the communities around the base, located 80 kilometres north of Manila. "It will take a long and hard time to crush the insurgency unless we dedicate more efforts and win the support of the civilian population," Montano said. "The NPA (New Peoples Army) has a lot of sympathisers and a lot of friends." Last October, rebels shot dead three U.S. citizens but have not carried through with the threat. Montano said soldiers and police must work to overcome the reputation of abusive and corrupt behaviour which was a legacy of the 20-year rule of President Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in a popular uprising in February 1986.